



H.B.M. Political Agency,
DUBAI,
Trucial States,
Arabian Gulf.

5th January 1971.

Ref reception reports from D. Jensen and G.L. Dexter.

Dear Donald and Gerry,

As I am rather a busy man and time is precious I am taking the liberty of writing to you both at the same time. You can fight over the carbon copy and I hope Donald that you will pass on this to Gerry.

Your reports on reception of Saut As Sahil are most interesting although I do not aim to do much business in America with an all Arabic programme. The 6040 Khz transmission is from a ten kilowatt Marconi transmitter into a ~~array~~ half wave dipole which is horizontal at a quarter wavelength above ground. The ground here is almost a pure insulator being dry sand as far as the eye can see. We therefore have an ^vearthmat below the array which is effectively a reflector. This produces a vertical incidence and the idea is for the signal to be reflected in the Gulf area.

The station is operated by the British Government and was started to provide a local information service at the time when there was no local radio in the Trucial States. It has local production by Arabic staff and is strictly non political. We operate as a commercial unit with a healthy revenue from advertising thereby being self supporting. Staffing apart from Arabs is one British director and myself both of us being Civil Servants.

We also broadcast in the MF band on 737 Khz and 1250 Khz both being ten kilowatt Marconi transmitters carrying the same programme. From my point of view I loathe the area and will be glad to return to UK and the end of my present overseas tour. The sight of sand and sea is beginning to pall after nearly two years and only two days of rain. However it's a boom area with every Sheik looking for oil and towns growing like mushrooms. The oil means a fair sprinkling of Texans in the area and some pretty "hairy" rig operators.

Yours Sincerely


H. ABBOTT.

E.I.C.