Foreign Office
S.W.1

31 March, 1967.

Your Highness

Thank you for your letter of 1 March calling attention to the needs of your country before it reaches independence.

I am sorry that you should have expressed the view that H.M. Government have not been as generous to the Qa'iti State as they ought to have been. We have in fact done a good deal over the years to lay the foundations for a system of social services (particularly health and education) in your State. We have also maintained peace and security in the area, with the economic advantages that that brings, so that it can fairly be said that your country has received and benefited from the full protection of the United Kingdom.

As you know, the High Commissioner visited Qa'iti State and the other Eastern States last year in order to ensure that the consequences of the

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His Highness Sultan Ghalib bin
Awadh al-Qa'iti,
The Palace,
MUKALLA.

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decision that South Arabia should become independent by 1968 were fully understood. He made it clear to your late father and to the State Minister that Her Majesty's Government would not provide aid to individual States after independence but that financial assistance would continue to be provided to the independent Government of South Arabia as a whole. He also told your father that if the Qa'iti State joined in the creation of a unified South Arabian State Her Majesty's Government would consider the implications of the merger upon the financial relationship between the Qa'iti State and the present Federal Government.

Should Qa'iti decide to take such a step we will, as promised, review the question of financial assistance to South Arabia. It is also our intention to continue to give technical assistance to the independent State of South Arabia. I am not sure whether you realise that the level of financial assistance for both military and civil purposes which Her Majesty's Government have promised to the Central Government of South Arabia after independence is such that, in

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proportion to its population, South Arabia will be receiving more aid from the U.K. than will almost any other country in the world.

I am kept fully informed about the state of affairs in your country by means of the reports which Mr. Ellis, the Political Resident in Mikalla, sends to the High Commissioner. He is in the position of knowing both you and your country well: I doubt therefore whether anything would be gained by my sending a representative to Mukalla from London, who would inevitably be less well placed to understand your problems.

I do hope most sincerely that the close and friendly relations which have existed so long between our two countries will continue in an enhanced and more modern form after independence.

Yours sincerely,

George Brown

(GEORGE BROWN)