Reference code: GB165-0597
Title: Sir Richard Beaumont Collection
Name of creator: Beaumont, Sir Richard Ashton (1912-2009) Knight, Diplomat and Arabist
Dates of creation of material: 1941-1995
Level of description: Fonds
Extent: 1 box

Born 29 December 1912, son of A. R. Beaumont and Evelyn Frances (née Rendle). Educated at Repton and Oriel College, Oxford, he joined the Foreign Office in 1936, serving in Lebanon and Syria. In 1941 he was withdrawn to Palestine and commissioned into the Army as an advisor to the generals overseeing the British and Free French invasion of Syria. He returned to the Foreign Office in 1944, serving in Mosul in Iraq. From here he was then appointed as Consul in Jerusalem on 15 May 1948, having previously played a role in the negotiations concerning the nature of the British mission in post-Mandate Palestine. In 1953 he was promoted to counsellor in the embassy in Baghdad. In 1958 he attended the Imperial Defence College, after which he returned to the Foreign Office as head of the Arabian department. He was appointed as ambassador to Morocco (1961-1965) then as ambassador to Iraq (1965-1967). He returned to London in the aftermath of the Six-Day War, which saw Iraq break off diplomatic relations with the UK, where he was appointed deputy under-secretary of state. He then served as ambassador to Egypt between 1969 and 1972. Upon his retirement, he became Director-General of the Middle East Association (1973-1977). He was also chairman of the Arab British Centre (1976-1977), of the Anglo-Arab Association (1979-1999) and of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce (1980-1996). He was a trustee of the Thomson Foundation (1974-2000) and governor of The School of Oriental and African Studies (1973-1978). Married, 1st, 1942, Alou Camran (d. 1985), 2nd, 1989, Melanie Anns (née Brummel). Sir Richard Beaumont died on 23 January 2009.

Scope and content: Papers mainly relating to Sir Richard Beaumont’s service in the Foreign Office, in particular his service as Consul in Jerusalem in 1948 and his role in the Buraimi Oasis dispute with Saudi-Arabia in Jan-Oct 1960. Includes a handwritten
chronology of events in Palestine and Jerusalem in the period Feb-Dec 1948, with personal
diary notes, and photocopies of documents held by The National Archives, perhaps
compiled for research purposes. There is also a small amount of material relating to
Lebanon and Syria during World War II, as well as a collection of newspaper clippings,
1979-1995, reporting on events in the Middle East.

**System of arrangement:**
1. Research/Diary Notes
2. Research Sources
3. Newspaper Clippings

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English, with a small amount of French and Arabic

**Conditions governing reproduction:** No restrictions on copying or quotation other than
statutory regulations and preservation concerns

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Sir Richard Beaumont

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Lady Beaumont in July 2014

**Location of originals:** Items in section 2 photocopied from originals at The National
Archives (series FO 371) Full references given at item level

**Related Units of Description:**

In MEC Archive

For other papers relating to the end of the Palestine Mandate and 1948 War see:

- GB165-0072 Sir Alan Cunningham Collection: This includes official papers and
telegrams from his period of office as the last High Commissioner of Palestine
(1945-1948) as well as personal correspondence

- GB165-0118 Lt.-Gen. Sir John Bagot Glubb Collection: This includes memoranda,
reports, telegrams and correspondence relating to Iraq, Palestine and Transjordan,
1920s-1950s Contains ‘War Diary Oct 1948-5 Jan 1950’ c165 boxes Draft
Catalogue

- GB165-0128 Sir Henry Lovell Goldsworthy Gurney Collection: This includes
“Palestine postscript: a short record of the last days of the Mandate” and diary
entries for the period 15 Mar-14 May 1948
GB165-0235 Brig. Reginald Blythe Rathbone Collection: This contains an MS memoire of service in Palestine, Nov 1946-Apr 1948

GB165-0282 Thames Television Collection: This contains photocopied transcripts of research interviews with British officials, Jews and Arabs, used in the three-part series *Palestine*, produced by Richard Broad and transmitted by Thames Television, 27 Jun-11 July 1978

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR RICHARD BEAUMONT COLLECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Research/Diary Notes</th>
<th>Not dated, 234 sheets</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>A series of research and diary notes made by Richard Beaumont relating to events in Palestine in 1947-1948</td>
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<td>1/1</td>
<td>Chronology of events in 1948</td>
<td>220 sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronological notes of events in and relating to Palestine between 12 Feb [1948] and 30 Dec [1948], includes brief personal diary notes in entries for 13, 27 Apr; 7-11, 13, 15, 17-19, 21, 23, 28 May; 1, 11 June; 10, 14-16, 25 July; 1, 16, 21 Sep; 30 Oct; 14, 25 Nov; 20 Dec. The events and diary entries include, for example, notes on action taken by the United Nations with regards to Palestine and the end of the Mandate; notes relating to the internal negotiations concerning the nature of the British mission in post-Mandate Palestine; notes relating to political and military developments in Palestine during this period; and notes relating to Richard Beaumont’s work as Consul and to conditions in the consulate. Frequent reference made to Dov Joseph, <em>The faithful city: the siege of Jerusalem, 1948</em> (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1960), cited by Richard Beaumont as ‘DJ’</td>
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<td>Related material: 1/5 Post Mandate British interests and consulate</td>
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<td>Background 1947</td>
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<td>after 1960</td>
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<td>Partition Decision</td>
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<td>Notes entitled ‘Background Partition decision 29.11.47’</td>
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<td>1/4</td>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>Not dated, 3 sheets</td>
<td>after 1960</td>
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<td>Notes entitled ‘Jerusalem’, includes chronology of events leading on from UN Statute for Jerusalem of 25 Nov 1947 and notes from Dov Joseph, <em>The faithful city:</em></td>
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the siege of Jerusalem, 1948 (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1960), referred to by Richard Beaumont as ‘DJ’

1/5 Post Mandate British interests and consulate
Notes concerning meeting held in Jerusalem in Apr [1948] with [Hugh] Dow and [Cyril] Marriott, attended by Richard Beaumont, regarding 1) protection of British interests after withdrawal of mandate, and 2) location for a British consulate; notes on the history of St Paul’s Hospice
Related material: 1/1 Chronology of events in 1948

1/6 Arab Disunity
Notes entitled ‘Arab disunity over Palestine’

1/7 Haganah
Notes entitled ‘Haganah’

1/8 Irgun
Notes entitled ‘Irgun Zvai Leumi (IZL)’

1/9 Stern
Notes entitled ‘Stern (Lehi) Lehamir Herut Israel’

1/10 Israeli Political Parties
Notes entitled ‘Israeli Political Parties (continued)’

1/11 British in Jerusalem District
Notes entitled ‘British in Jerusalem District’

1/12 Consular Truce Commission
Notes entitled ‘Consular Truce Commission’

1/13 Note of box and file numbers
Page from notepad with box and file numbers, possibly used during archival research

2 Research Sources 1941-1967 68 sheets
Material collected by Richard Beaumont, consisting primarily of photocopies of documents in The National Archives
System of arrangement:

2/1  Palestine 1947-1948
2/2  UK-Saudi Relations 1960
2/3  The Levant during World War 2
2/4  The Six-Day War

2/1  Palestine 1947-1948

2/1/1  Partition Plan Map
Map drawn up by Foreign Office Research Department showing Palestine entitled ‘Boundaries in partition plan’

Dec 1947  1 sheet

2/1/2  Palestine Survey Extracts
Photocopies of extracts from ‘The Colonial Empire (1947-48), part I. A general survey Palestine’ and ‘The Colonial Empire (1947-48), part II. (g) Palestine’

Not dated  3 sheets

Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/68621

2/1/3  Palestine: Termination of Mandate Report
Photocopies of report by Richard Beaumont concerning ‘Palestine: Termination of British Mandate and withdrawal of High Commissioner’

29 May 1943  2 sheets

Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/68621

2/1/4  Surrender of Jewish Quarter Jerusalem
Photocopy of letter from Richard Beaumont to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs concerning the surrender of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem to the Arab Legion

30 May 1948  5 sheets

Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/68510

2/1/5  Military and Political situation in Jerusalem

10 July 1948  2 sheets
Photocopy of telegram from Acting British Consul, Jerusalem, to Foreign Office concerning military and political circumstances in Jerusalem
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/68571

2/1/6 UN Response to Palestine Situation 15 Dec 1948 4 sheets
Photocopy (white text on black background) of memorandum from Sir O. Harvey to Foreign Office concerning the United Nations’ response to the situation in Palestine

2/1/7 Palestine: Report 20 Sep to 26 Sep 1948 20-26 Sep 2 sheets
Photocopy of report compiled by the Foreign Office Research Department entitled ‘Palestine Summary: Monday, 20th September – Sunday, 26th September, 1948’
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/68687

2/2 UK-Saudi Relations 1960

2/2/1 Letter from H. Kern 5 Jan 1960 4 sheets
Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning ‘Anglo-Saudi relations – letter from Mr. H. Kern’, with hand written note of Sir R. Stevens
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149248

2/2/2 Suggestions of Hafiz Wahba 7 Jan 1960 2 sheets
Photocopy of memorandum from George Rendel concerning ‘Saudi Arabia Sheikh Hafiz Wahba’s suggestions (Note for record only)’
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149236

2/2/3 Views of G. Rendel on UK-Saudi relations 7-13 Jan 1960 4 sheets
Photocopy of telegram from Sir G. Rendel concerning his views on Saudi Arabian relations with the UK, with minutes from A.R. Walmsley and Richard Beaumont
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149236

2/2/4 Hammarskjöld letter on UK-Saudi relations  27 Jan 1960  10 sheets
Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning ‘Mr. Hammarskjöld’s letter on Anglo-Saudi relations’, with note on Khor al Odaid problem
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149236

2/2/5 US Response to Hammarskjöld letter  27-28 Jan 1960  6 sheets
Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning ‘The Secretary of State’s reply to Mr. Hammarskjöld on Anglo-Saudi relations’, with hand written additions by Sir R. Stevens
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149236

2/2/6 UK-Saudi discussions in New York  24 Mar 1960  2 sheets
Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning ‘Anglo-Saudi discussions in New York’
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149238

2/2/7 UK-Saudi relations  11 May 1960  2 sheets
Photocopy of telegram from Sir P. Dixon to United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations concerning ‘Anglo-Saudi Relations’
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149240

2/2/8 UN Secretary General Letter to Prince Faisal  11-12 May 1960  2 sheets
Photocopy of telegram from Sir P. Dixon
concerning ‘Wording of Secretary General’s letter to Prince Faisal’, with minutes from Mr. Amery and A.R. Walmsley and report from Richard Beaumont on ‘Anglo-Saudi relations.

New York Telegram No. 279’

Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149240

2/2/9  UK-Saudi relations

Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont to Foreign Office concerning ‘Foreign Office telegram No. 279 of 10 May’ and ‘My telegram No. 263: Anglo-Saudi Relations’

Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149240

2/2/10 UK-Saudi discussions in New York

Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning ‘Anglo-Saudi discussions in New York’

Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149240

2/2/11 UN compromise solution

Photocopy of cover page of telegram from Sir P. Dixon concerning ‘UK agreement to Secretary General’s “compromise solution”’, with minutes from Mr. Amery

Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149241

2/2/12 UK-Saudi negotiations

Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning ‘Anglo-Saudi Negotiations. New York Saving Telegram no. 131 of June 1’

Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149241
2/2/13  **Response to Parliamentary Question**  22 Jul 1960  2 sheets
Photocopy of response from Richard Beaumont to Parliamentary Question posed by Mr. William Yates concerning recognition by the British Government of the Royal Government of Saudi Arabia
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149242

2/2/14  **Possible Azzam Pasha Visit to London**  22-28 Aug 1960  1 sheet
Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning ‘Possible visit by Azzam Pasha to London’, with hand written additions by Sir R. Stevens
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149248

2/2/15  **Talks with Herbert de Ribbing**  14 Oct 1960  2 sheets
Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning ‘Brief for talk with Mr. de Ribbing’
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149245

2/2/16  **Talks with Herbert de Ribbing**  20-21 Oct 1960  3 sheets
Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning ‘Anglo-Saudi Relations. Talks with Mr. de Ribbing’, with hand written additions by Sir R. Stevens and ‘EA’
Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/149246

2/3  **The Levant during World War 2**

2/3/1  **Bastille Day celebrations**  27 Jul-16 Aug 1944  6 sheets
Photocopy of telegram from Beirut Chancery, includes minutes from R.M.A. Hawkey and Richard Beaumont concerning Sir E. Spears
and his handling of the French 14th July celebrations in Syria and Lebanon; a copy of telegram from Sir E. Spears to French Prime Minister concerning 14th July celebrations in Syria, and a copy of a report compiled by ‘His Majesty’s Legation, Beirut’ concerning ‘Arabic Press Comments on the French 14th July celebrations in Syria and the Lebanon’

Location of original: The National Archives, FO 371/40302

2/3/2 Churchill letter to De Gaulle

Photocopy of letter from British Prime Minister [Winston Churchill] to General Charles de Gaulle concerning operations in the Levant

Location of original: The National Archives, FO 371/27325

2/3/3 General Catroux letter

Photocopy of letter from General Catroux to the President of the Syrian Republic, includes Declaration of Syrian Independence

Language: In French

Location of original: The National Archives, FO 371/27312

2/4 The Six-Day War

2/4/1 UN Resolution 242

Photocopy of text of United Nations Resolution 242

22 Nov 1967 1 sheet

3 Newspaper Clippings

Newspaper articles collected by Richard Beaumont relating to Middle Eastern Affairs

Access – please note that this material is large format and is stored separately

1979-1995 17 sheets
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Sheets</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Mar 1979</td>
<td><strong>NY Times Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty</strong></td>
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<td>Pages A11-A18 of the New York Times with coverage of Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty entitled ‘To bring to an end the state of war’</td>
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<td>10-11 Jul 1983</td>
<td><strong>1958 Iraqi coup d’état</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Front page of Le Monde newspaper with article: ‘La Marseillaise de Bagdad’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language: In French</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Sep 1983</td>
<td><strong>Beirut US Marine Barracks bombing</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Front page of Le Monde newspaper with article: ‘Le Congrès va autoriser M. Reagan à maintenir les « marines » à Beyrouth’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language: In French</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-26 Sep 1983</td>
<td><strong>War in Libya</strong></td>
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<td>Pages 3-6 of Le Monde newspaper with articles: ‘Les druzes mystiques et guerriers’ and ‘La guerre au Liban’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language: In French</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Apr 1984</td>
<td><strong>History of UK in Jordan</strong></td>
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<td>Front page of Al-Rayy newspaper with article: ‘Pages from the modern history of Jordan. 10th instalment. Light on the British documents 1946-1952’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language: In Arabic</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Aug 1986</td>
<td><strong>Profile of Antioch</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Pages 7-10 of Le Monde newspaper with articles: ‘Antioche, ville en exil’; ‘Les naufragés du Zaire’; ‘Lorca victim de Grenade’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language: In French</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Sep 1988</td>
<td><strong>Anniversary of Bernadotte Assassination</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Front page of Le Monde newspaper with the article ‘L’assassinat du comte Folke Bernadotte’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language: In French</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Apr 1995</td>
<td><strong>Israel/Palestine Coverage</strong></td>
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<td>Pages 15-18 of Le Monde newspaper with articles: ‘La Palestine est-elle un bantoustan?’ and ‘Israël doit”</td>
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</table>
accepter le TNP’
Language: In French

3/9 Arab-Israeli trade dispute
Newspaper clipping from unstated newspaper with the article: ‘Judges and lawyers to settle trade disputes. Arabs welcome arbitration panel’

3/10 Anniversary coverage of end of Mandate
Newspaper clipping from unstated newspaper with the article: ‘The birth of Israel: 16 May 1948 US-UK rift over recognition of Israeli state’

3/11 Anniversary coverage of end of Mandate
Newspaper clipping from unstated newspaper with the article: ‘The birth of Israel: 18 May 1948 Jerusalem becomes the battleground’