

**Reference code:** GB165-0430

**Title:** Sir Geoffrey Arthur Collection

**Name of creator:** Arthur, Sir Geoffrey (1920-1984) Knight, Diplomat

**Dates of creation of material:** 1968-1971, 1983-1984

**Level of description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 2 boxes

**Biographical history:** Arthur, Sir Geoffrey (1920-1984) Knight, Diplomat

Born 19 March 1920, his university career at Christ Church College, Oxford was interrupted by the Second World War and he undertook military service in Egypt, Iran and Iraq. On returning to Oxford after the war, he studied Arabic and Persian, and entered the Foreign Service in 1947. The earlier part of his diplomatic career was spent in Baghdad, Ankara and Cairo as well as West Germany. In 1967 he was appointed HM Ambassador to Kuwait and in 1970 Political Resident in the Persian Gulf. During this time he presided over the British military withdrawal and negotiated the political settlement that culminated in the creation of the United Arab Emirates. He returned to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as Deputy Under-Secretary of State from 1973 until 1975 when he was elected Master of Pembroke College, Oxford. He was married to Margaret Woodcock. He died on 15 May 1984 aged 64.

**Scope and content:** Papers relating to Sir Geoffrey Arthur's service as a senior diplomat in the Persian Gulf, when he engineered negotiations that led to the creation of the United Arab Emirates, 1968-1971. The collection includes agreements, orders, resolutions, laws, statements, memoranda, agendas, minutes and reports produced by or for the Provisional Union Council and the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates. A small amount of material consists of correspondence between key players in the negotiations, and articles analysing the situation. The papers also contain a certificate from New England College confirming upon Sir Geoffrey Arthur an honorary degree in 1983 and two obituaries for Sir Geoffrey Arthur in 1984.

**System of arrangement:**

1. 'Union of Arab Emirates. Resolutions, Decisions, Joint Communiqués & Documents', January 1968 – November 1970
2. 'Union of Arab Emirates. Resolutions, Decisions, Joint Communiqués & Documents Part Two', October 1970 – January 1971

3. Obituaries
4. New England College Honorary Degree, 1983

**Access conditions:** Open

**Language of material:** English

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

**Custodial history:** In the possession of Sir Geoffrey Arthur who gave the material to Professor Derek Latham before his death with a view to their preservation for the historical record. New England College Honorary Degree material in the possession of Fishers Solicitors, who presumably had received it from Geoffrey Arthur.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Received as a gift from Mrs Jean Latham (widow of Professor Derek Latham) on 17 Jul 2008. New England College Honorary degree material received as a gift from Simon Musson on behalf of Fishers Solicitors on 8 Oct 2019.

**Finding aids:** In Guide; Handlist

**Archivist's note:** Fonds, file and item level description created by Jenny Smith, 19 Aug 2008 and revised by Debbie Usher 1 Feb 2020 to include the New England College Honorary Degree material. Biographical History based on the Times obituary and the obituary by Professor J. Derek Latham, both contained in this collection.

**FILE AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR GEOFFREY ARTHUR  
COLLECTION**

**1 'Union of Arab Emirates. Resolutions, Decisions, Joint Communiqués &  
Documents', Jan 1968 – Nov 1970**

Papers relating to the creation of the Union of Arab Emirates comprising the Emirates of Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dubai, Qatar, Umm al Qaiwain, Sharqah, Ras al Khaimah, Ajman and Fujairah

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|-----|--|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1/1 | 'Memorandum in reply to the demand by Bahrain for the formation of the Union Council on a basis of a representation which would be proportional to the number of citizens of each Emirate' by Dr Hassan Kamel Adviser to the Government of Qatar | Not dated<br>[Oct 1970] | 16 sheets |
| 1/2 | Letter from Ahmad Ben Ali Al Thani (Ruler of Qatar) to Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan (Ruler of Abu Dhabi and President of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates)                                  | 18 Nov 1970             | 6 sheets  |
| 1/3 | Letter entitled 'Translation' from Ahmad Ben Ali Al Thani (Ruler of Qatar) to Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan (Ruler of Abu Dhabi)   | 19 Oct 1970             | 6 sheets  |
| 1/4 | 'Memorandum Concerning the membership of Qatar of the Union of Arab Emirates as provided for by the provisional constitution of Qatar'   | Not dated               | 5 sheets  |
| 1/5 | 'Explanatory memorandum regarding some of the Articles of the Provisional Constitution of Qatar'   | Not dated               | 11 sheets |
| 1/6 | 'The Provisional Constitution for Qatar' by Ahmad Ben Ali Al Thani (Ruler of Qatar) (pages 20-23 are not extant)   | 2 Apr 1970              | 29 sheets |
| 1/7 | 'Law No. 5 of 1970: Determination of Powers of Ministers, and the Functions of Ministers and Other Governmental Organs' by Ahmad Ben Ali Al Thani (Ruler of Qatar)   | 2 Apr 1970              | 17 sheets |

1/8	'Article Published in the "Al-Jaridah" Newspaper on Wednesday 18.6.1969: "Why is the Establishment of the Union of Arab Emirates being delayed?"'	18 Jun 1969	24 sheets
1/9	'Memorandum submitted to the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates regarding the Higher Policy, the Foreign Policy and the Diplomatic Representation of the Union' by Khalifah Ben Ahmad Al Thani (President of the Council)	6 Mar 1968	2 sheets
1/10	Draft 'Union of Arab Emirates Supreme Council: Union Order No. ( ) of 1969 Regarding the Establishment of a National Advisory Council for the Union of Arab Emirates'	Not dated	12 sheets
1/11	Draft 'Statement to the Supreme Council Regarding the Essential Guiding Principles of the Policy of the Union of Arab Emirates'	Not dated	4 sheets
1/12	'Provisional Union Council Resolution No. 11 of 1969 regarding the Establishment of a Union Organization for Commerce and Industry in the Union of Arab Emirates' by Khalifah Ben Hamad Al Thani (President of the Council) attached to draft law	23 Jun 1969	6 sheets
1/13	'Provisional Union Council Resolution No. 8 of 1969 regarding the Establishment of a Union Communications Organization in the Union of Arab Emirates' by Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani (President of the Council) attached to draft law	2 Apr 1969	6 sheets
1/14	'Provisional Union Council Resolution No. 7 of 1969 for the Establishment of a Union Organisation for Medical and Health Services in the Union of Arab Emirates' by Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani (President of the Council) attached to draft law	2 Apr 1969	6 sheets
1/15	'Provisional Union Council Resolution No. 2 of 1969 regarding a Draft Law for the Establishment of a Union Postal Services Organisation in the Union of Arab	6 Mar 1969	5 sheets

	Emirates' by Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani (President of the Council) attached to draft law			
1/16	'Union Resolution No. 5 of 1969 Regarding the Formation of a Provisional Union Council and the determination of its Powers' by the rulers of 9 Emirates	7 Jul 1968		3 sheets
1/17	'Union Resolution No. 5 of 1969 Regarding the Formation of a Provisional Union Council and the determination of its Powers' by the rulers of 9 Emirates (Duplicate of 1/16)	7 Jul 1968		3 sheets
1/18	'Provisional Union Council Resolution No. 6 of 1969 for the Establishment of a Union Education and Culture Organization in the United Arab Emirates' by Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani (President of the Council) attached to draft law	2 Apr 1969		4 sheets
1/19	'A study of the Position of the Parties Concerned at the Meetings of the Preparatory Committee and the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates (May 1968) from the Legal Aspect' by Dr Wahid Ra'fat	4 Jun 1968		5 sheets
1/20	'The Broad Outlines of the Replies to the Questions which were put by Doctor Hassan El-Turabi, the Assistant Constitutional Expert'	2 Oct 1968		10 sheets
1/21	From the Minutes of the Second Meeting of 1968 of the Provisional Union Council: Matters Connected with the Flag of the Union (Minute no. 6)	26-27 1968	Nov	1 sheet
1/22	'Urgent Memorandum Regarding the Comment made by the "Flag, National Anthem and Official Emblem Committee" on the subject of the Unification of the Flag' by Dr Hassan Kamel (Adviser to the Government of Qatar)	11 Oct 1968		5 sheets
1/23	'Concise Memorandum regarding the Unification of Citizenship in the Union of Arab Emirates' by Dr Hassan Kamel (Adviser to the Government of Qatar)	20 Nov 1968		3 sheets
1/24	Letter from Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani (President of the Provisional Federal Council) to Robert McNamara	12 Dec 1968		4 sheets

(President & Chairman of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) requesting that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development carry out an economic and social survey of the Emirates

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|------|--|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1/25 | ‘Committee: Draft Agenda of the Third Session of the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates held on the 10 <sup>th</sup> May, 1969’   | Not dated<br>[Apr/ May<br>1969] | 3 sheets  |
| 1/26 | ‘Bahrain: Draft Agenda of the Third Session of the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates held on the 10 <sup>th</sup> May, 1969’   | Not dated<br>[Apr/ May<br>1969] | 2 sheets  |
| 1/27 | Recommendations of the Committee of Advisers regarding<br>1) the President, 2) the Council of Ministers, 3) the Representative Council, 4) the Finances of the Union   | Not dated                       | 18 sheets |
| 1/28 | ‘Abu Dhabi: Draft Agenda of the Third Session of the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates held on the 10 <sup>th</sup> May, 1969’   | Not dated<br>[Apr/ May<br>1969] | 3 sheets  |
| 1/29 | ‘Qatar: Draft Agenda of the Third Session of the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates held on the 10 <sup>th</sup> May, 1969’   | Not dated<br>[Apr/ May<br>1969] | 3 sheets  |
| 1/30 | ‘Qatar: Draft Agenda of the Third Session of the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates held on the 10 <sup>th</sup> May, 1969’ (Duplicate of 1/29)   | Not dated<br>[Apr/ May<br>1969] | 3 sheets  |
| 1/31 | Report on issues relating to the Union: 1) the Draft Agenda for the Third Session of the Supreme Council, 2) the seat of the Union, 3) the draft laws submitted to the Council, 4) the Provisional Union Council<br><br>Related material: Please see 1/26 Bahrain Draft Agenda, 1/28 Abu Dhabi Draft Agenda, 1/29 Qatar Draft Agenda | Not dated<br>[1969]             | 9 sheets  |
| 1/32 | ‘Memorandum Submitted by the Government of Qatar to the first meeting of the Supreme Council of the Union of Arab Emirates’ plus appendices:<br><br>1 Draft Agenda submitted by the Government of Abu Dhabi to the Committee of Advisers   | 25 May 1968                     | 56 sheets |

- 2 Draft Agenda submitted by the Government of Qatar to the committee of Advisers
  - 3 Draft of a Union resolution regarding the method of election and Functions of the President
  - 4 Appendix 4 is not extant
  - 5 Detailed minutes of the meetings of the Committee of Advisers (prepared by the delegation of Qatar)
  - 6 Draft of a Union resolution submitted by the Government of Qatar regarding regulation of formation of Union Council and determination of its functions and rules
  - 7 Recommendations of the Committee of Advisers
  - 8 Memorandum of the delegation of Qatar to the Committee of Advisers
  - 9 Draft of a resolution regarding a difference of opinion over the Agreement
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|------|---|-------------|----------|
| 1/33 | Legal Opinion on the Dubai Agreement of 27 February 1968 by Charles Rousseau, Professor at the Law Faculty in Paris and Member of the International Law Council | 22 Jun 1968 | 6 sheets |
| 1/34 | Draft Agreement for the Establishment of the United Arab Coastal Emirate submitted by the Government of Qatar to the Conference of Rulers                       | 25 Feb 1968 | 2 sheets |
| 1/35 | Draft Agreement of the Union of Arab Emirates Submitted by the Government of Qatar to the Conference of the Rulers  | 25 Feb 1968 | 5 sheets |
| 1/36 | Draft Agreement of the Union of Arab Emirates submitted to the Ruler and Deputy Ruler of Qatar by Dr Hassan Kamel, Adviser to the Government of Qatar.          | 24 Jan 1968 | 6 sheets |
| 1/37 | Agreement of the Union of the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai   | 18 Feb 1968 | 1 sheet  |
| 1/37 | Document regarding the Agreement of the Union of Abu Dhabi and Dubai  | 18 Feb 1968 | 1 sheet  |
| 1/38 | Typescript list of documents in this file   | Not dated   | 1 sheet  |

**2 'Union of Arab Emirates. Resolutions, Decisions, Joint Communiqués & Documents Part Two', Oct 1970 – Jan 1971**

Papers relating to the establishment of the Union of Arab Emirates and attempts to overcome obstacles to its success

2/1	'Aide memoire regarding the proposal made by Qatar on the subject of the Union capital' by Dr Hassan Kamel (Adviser to the Government of Qatar)	1 Feb 1971	3 sheets
2/2	Memorandum from the Government of Qatar to the Saudi-Kuwaiti delegation	27 Jan 1971	7 sheets
2/3	Letter from Ahmad Ben Ali Al Thani (Ruler of Qatar) to Sheikh Sabah Salem el-Sabah (Ruler of Kuwait) regarding Kuwaiti-Saudi efforts to overcome obstacles to the Union	20 Jan 1971	5 sheets
2/4	'The Proposals of the Kuwaiti-Saudi Delegation'	1 Feb 1971	3 sheets
2/5	'Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee for the Revision of the Draft Provisional Constitution of the Union of Arab Emirates'	25 Oct 1970	21 sheets
2/6	Minutes of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the committee of the deputy rulers to prepare for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting in the 4 <sup>th</sup> session of the Supreme Council	24 Oct 1970	79 sheets

**3 Sir Geoffrey Arthur Obituaries, 1984**

3/1	Obituary by J Derek Latham	Not dated	2 sheets
3/2	Obituary in the Times	16 May 1984	1 sheet

**4 New England College Honorary Degree, 1983**

4/1	Printed text of a speech or letter giving a summary of Sir Geoffrey Arthur's career and his 'continuing commitment to the welfare and understanding of the Middle East' that lead to the conferring of an honorary degree of Doctor of	15 May 1983	1 sheet
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Humane Letters by the New England College, New  
Hampshire, United States of America.

4/2 Certificate from New England College confirming upon Sir 15 May 1983 1 item  
Geoffrey Arthur an Honorary Degree as Doctor of Humane  
Letters in a leather bound presentation folder.