

**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

**Biographical history:** Beaumont, Sir Richard Ashton (1912-2009) Knight, Diplomat and Arabist

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 In 1941 he was withdrawn to Palestine and commissioned into the Army as an advisor to the generals overseeing the British and Free French invasion of Syria.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, 1<sup>st</sup>, 1942, Alou Camran (d. 1985), 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 memoir 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

**Archivist's note:** Fonds and file item level description created by Richard Allen, October 2014. Biographical History based on the entry for Sir Richard Ashton Beaumont in *Who Was Who* (online edition, April 2014) and the obituaries printed in *The Times* (30 Jan 2009) and *The Telegraph* (28 Jan 2009).

**SERIES AND ITEM LEVEL DESCRIPTION OF THE SIR RICHARD  
BEAUMONT COLLECTION**

<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>Research/Diary Notes</u></b>	<b><u>Not dated,</u></b>	<b><u>234 sheets</u></b>
	A series of research and diary notes made by Richard Beaumont relating to events in Palestine in 1947-1948	<b><u>after 1960</u></b>	
1/1	<b><u>Chronology of events in 1948</u></b>		220 sheets
	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, <i>The faithful city: the siege of Jerusalem, 1948</i> (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1960), cited by Richard Beaumont as 'DJ'		
	Related material: 1/5 Post Mandate British interests and consulate		
1/2	<b><u>Background 1947</u></b>	Not dated,	1 sheet
	Notes entitled 'Background 1947'	after 1960	
1/3	<b><u>Partition Decision</u></b>	Not dated	1 sheet
	Notes entitled 'Background Partition decision 29.11.47'		
1/4	<b><u>Jerusalem</u></b>	Not dated,	3 sheets
	Notes entitled 'Jerusalem', includes chronology of events leading on from UN Statute for Jerusalem of 25 Nov 1947 and notes from Dov Joseph, <i>The faithful city:</i>	after 1960	

*the siege of Jerusalem, 1948* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1960), referred to by Richard Beaumont as 'DJ'

1/5	<u>Post Mandate British interests and consulate</u> 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	Not dated	2 sheets
1/6	<u>Arab Disunity</u> Notes entitled 'Arab disunity over Palestine'	Not dated, after 1960	1 sheet
1/7	<u>Haganah</u> Notes entitled 'Haganah'	Not dated, after 1960	1 sheet
1/8	<u>Irgun</u> Notes entitled 'Irgun Zvai Leumi (IZL)'	Not dated	1 sheet
1/9	<u>Stern</u> Notes entitled 'Stern (Lehi) Lehamir Herut Israel'	Not dated	1 sheet
1/10	<u>Israeli Political Parties</u> Notes entitled 'Israeli Political Parties (continued)'	Not dated, after 1960	1 sheet
1/11	<u>British in Jerusalem District</u> Notes entitled 'British in Jerusalem District'	Not dated	1 sheet
1/12	<u>Consular Truce Commission</u> Notes entitled 'Consular Truce Commission'	Not dated	1 sheet
1/13	<u>Note of box and file numbers</u> Page from notepad with box and file numbers, possibly used during archival research	Not dated	1 sheet
<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>Research Sources</u></b> Material collected by Richard Beaumont, consisting primarily of photocopies of documents in The National Archives	<b><u>1941-1967</u></b>	<b><u>68 sheets</u></b>

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 | <u>Partition Plan Map</u><br>Map drawn up by Foreign Office Research Department showing Palestine entitled 'Boundaries in partition plan'  | Dec 1947     | 1 sheet  |
| 2/1/2 | <u>Palestine Survey Extracts</u><br>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'<br>Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/68621                                       | Not dated    | 3 sheets |
| 2/1/3 | <u>Palestine: Termination of Mandate Report</u><br>Photocopies of report by Richard Beaumont concerning 'Palestine: Termination of British Mandate and withdrawal of High Commissioner'<br>Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/68621  | 29 May 1943  | 2 sheets |
| 2/1/4 | <u>Surrender of Jewish Quarter Jerusalem</u><br>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<br>Location of originals: The National Archives, FO 371/68510 | 30 May 1948  | 5 sheets |
| 2/1/5 | <u>Military and Political situation in Jerusalem</u>   | 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 1948 2 sheets
- Photocopy of report compiled by the Foreign Office Research Department entitled 'Palestine Summary: Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> September – Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Hammar skjöld letter on UK-Saudi relations 27 Jan 1960 10 sheets  
Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning 'Mr. Hammar skjöld'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 Hammar skjöld letter 27-28 Jan 1960 6 sheets  
Photocopy of memorandum from Richard Beaumont concerning 'The Secretary of State's reply to Mr. Hammar skjöld 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 20 May 1960 2 sheets
- 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 24 May 1960 4 sheets
- 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 1-7 Jun 1960 1 sheet
- 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 8 Jun 1960 1 sheet
- 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



- and his handling of the French 14<sup>th</sup> July celebrations in Syria and Lebanon; a copy of telegram from Sir E. Spears to French Prime Minister concerning 14<sup>th</sup> July celebrations in Syria, and a copy of a report compiled by ‘His Majesty’s Legation, Beirut’ concerning ‘Arabic Press Comments on the French 14<sup>th</sup> July celebrations in Syria and the Lebanon’
- Location of original: The National Archives, FO 371/40302
- 2/3/2 Churchill letter to De Gaulle 6 Jun 1941 1 sheet
- 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 29 Sep [1941] 3 sheets
- 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 22 Nov 1967 1 sheet
- Photocopy of text of United Nations Resolution 242
- 3** **Newspaper Clippings** **1979-1995** **17 sheets**
- Newspaper articles collected by Richard Beaumont relating to Middle Eastern Affairs
- Access – please note that this material is large format and is stored separately

- 3/1 NY Times Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty 27 Mar 1979 4 sheets  
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'
- 3/2 1958 Iraqi coup d'état 10-11 Jul 1983 1 sheet  
Front page of Le Monde newspaper with article: 'La Marseillaise de Bagdad'  
Language: In French
- 3/3 Beirut US Marine Barracks bombing 22 Sep 1983 1 sheet  
Front page of Le Monde newspaper with article: 'Le Congrès va autoriser M. Reagan à maintenir les « marines » à Beyrouth'  
Language: In French
- 3/4 War in Libya 25-26 Sep 1983 2 sheets  
Pages 3-6 of Le Monde newspaper with articles: 'Les druzes mystiques et guerriers' and 'La guerre au Liban'  
Language: In French
- 3/5 History of UK in Jordan 19 Apr 1984 1 sheet  
Front page of Al-Rayy newspaper with article: 'Pages from the modern history of Jordan. 10<sup>th</sup> instalment. Light on the British documents 1946-1952'  
Language: In Arabic
- 3/6 Profile of Antioch 16 Aug 1986 2 sheets  
Pages 7-10 of Le Monde newspaper with articles: 'Antioche, ville en exil'; 'Les naufragés du Zaire'; 'Lorca victim de Grenade'  
Language: In French
- 3/7 Anniversary of Bernadotte Assassination 19 Sep 1988 1 sheet  
Front page of Le Monde newspaper with the article 'L'assassinat du comte Folke Bernadotte'  
Language: In French
- 3/8 Israel/Palestine Coverage 14 Apr 1995 2 sheets  
Pages 15-18 of Le Monde newspaper with articles: 'La Palestine est-elle un bantoustan?' and 'Israël doit

accepter le TNP'

Language: In French

- |      |   |                         |         |
|------|---|-------------------------|---------|
| 3/9  | <u>Arab-Israeli trade dispute</u><br>Newspaper clipping from unstated newspaper with the article: 'Judges and lawyers to settle trade disputes. Arabs welcome arbitration panel'              | 3 Apr [year not stated] | 1 sheet |
| 3/10 | <u>Anniversary coverage of end of Mandate</u><br>Newspaper clipping from unstated newspaper with the article: 'The birth of Israel: 16 May 1948 US-UK rift over recognition of Israeli state' | Not dated               | 1 sheet |
| 3/11 | <u>Anniversary coverage of end of Mandate</u><br>Newspaper clipping from unstated newspaper with the article: 'The birth of Israel: 18 May 1948 Jerusalem becomes the battleground'           | Not dated               | 1 sheet |