

8th March 1972

Mr Odeh Aburdene,
Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy,
Tufts University,
Medford, Mass, USA

Dear Mr Aburdene,

I read with great interest a news report about your Thesis on American oil companies and their operations in Middle East countries, including Libya.

I am especially interested because I am at work on a book on Libya commissioned by Pnguin Books which does not deal by any means exclusively with oil, but of course oil is a very important part of it.

I should be very happy if I could benefit by your own work, with due attribution and acknowledgement of course. Is there any way in which I could see some of the material on Libya, do you think? Or perhaps there is a possibility you may pass through Britain at some point and we could talk directly?

I would be very interested in a breakdown of the profits earned by the US oil companies active in Libya. One other matter - I gather from a recent report in the Wall Street Journal that there is a legal action pending in which Occidental is involved. Any idea why the suit filed by Allen and Co is only coming to

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a head now, many years after the acquisition of their concessions? Also, while the limelight generally focusses on the methods used by Occidental to get their concessions, very little comes to light about the other US companies. Do you have any background material on their acquisition of concessions and their general history of installation?

I hope to hear from you and that you appreciate whatever material you made available to me would get due acknowledgement. The book is not due to be published for some time still.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth First.