

SAUDI ARABIA

ROYAL DECREE No. 17/2/22/3481—DATED 24/9/1372H [JUNE 8, 1953]¹

With the aid of God the Almighty,
We, Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman al-Faisal Al-Saud, King of
Saudi Arabia,

In accordance with what the Minister of Defense and Aviation has
submitted to us, have decreed the following:

Article 1: The State has a complete and absolute sovereignty over
the air space above its territory. The air space is the air layer above
its lands and territorial waters.

Article 2: No aircraft is allowed to fly over or land in the territory
of our Kingdom unless it has obtained permission to do so from the
appropriate authority in our Kingdom and has complied with the
provisions of such permission, or unless such permission is granted
under a special agreement or international treaty by which our Gov-
ernment is bound.

Article 3: Air navigation for military, governmental and diplo-
matic aircraft shall be regulated by a decree. Air navigation of civil
aircraft shall be regulated by decisions issued by the Minister of
Defense and Aviation who has the authority to impose proper finan-
cial penalties in case of violations of their rules. These penalties
shall be applied by administrative authorities of the Civil Aviation
Department.

Article 4: Aircraft considered military aircraft are: aircraft be-
longing to military, air or naval forces. Aircraft considered gov-
ernmental aircraft are: aircraft designed for public services such as
customs, police, mail and similar services. Aircraft considered dip-
lomatic are: aircraft that carry diplomatic representatives or air or
military attaches.

Article 5: Representatives of Customs, Public Security, Public
Health and other officials whom the Minister of Defense and Aviation
may delegate have the right to order any overflying aircraft to land.
They also have the right to inspect it and examine the certificates and
documents aboard it and to stop it from taking off, without previously
arranged action. This measure is necessary to observe the applica-
tion of this Decree and the carrying out of the special rules of navi-
gation.

These representatives have the right to detain the aircraft or any
document, person or goods aboard the aircraft pending the execution
of decisions taken by the appropriate authorities in such cases.

Article 6: Our Viceroy and the Minister of Defense and Aviation
have put this Decree of ours into effect and act in accordance with it.

¹ English text supplied by the Government of Saudi Arabia.