

Constantinople Convention of October 29, 1888, is printed in *British and Foreign State Papers, 1887-1888*, volume 79, pages 18-22, and in *The Suez Canal Problem, July 26-September 22, 1956*. (Department of State publication 6392; Washington, 1956), pages 16-20.)

Discussion of the matter concluded on January 13, 1955, when the Security Council's President indicated that it was the consensus of the Council's members to regard the Council's resolution of September 1, 1951, as having continuing validity and effect. For the record of the two meetings on January 5 and 13, see U.N. documents S/PV 687 and S/PV 688.

2. Telegram From the Embassy in Iraq to the Department of State¹

Baghdad, January 5, 1955—10:09 a.m.

408. Although Embassy pouching² its detailed observations on Department's CA-3378, November 22,³ a brief telegraphic summary of our views on subject may be helpful.

We agree attempt at settlement Arab-Israeli problem needs again be undertaken and concur in specific objectives cited in reference instruction. We strongly urge, however, that concept of regional defense on one hand and of Arab-Israeli settlement on the other be kept apart with priority of emphasis assigned to former. While we recognize area of overlap exists, fact remains they are basically distinct problems, and deserve to be pursued separately even if concurrently. Any effort unnecessarily entangle them likely impede progress in forging regional defense.

We recommend, too, that Iraq no less so than Egypt be among states with which initial discussions on subject are to be begun. As leading contender with Egypt for hegemony in Arab community, any approach to one alone is likely be seized upon by other to push its

¹ Source: Department of State, Central Files, 684A.86/1-355. Top Secret; Limited Distribution--Alpha. Received at 10:09 a.m. "Alpha" was the Department of State's code word for materials pertaining to a U.S.-British effort, initiated in November 1954, to develop proposals for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace settlement. Concerning this effort, see *Foreign Relations, 1952-1954*, vol. IX, pp. 1683-1741 *passim*. Distribution of documents labeled "Alpha" was highly restricted; see *ibid.*, pp. 1730-1731.

² In despatch 296 from Baghdad, not printed. (Department of State, Central Files, 684A.86/1-455)

³ For text, see *Foreign Relations, 1952-1954*, vol. IX, Part 1, p. 1695.