

To assist and advise Russell, MacArthur established an interdepartmental planning group, chaired by Russell and comprised of the Departments of State and Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency. Herman Phleger, Herbert V. Prochnow, and a representative from the United States Information Agency also attended meetings on an ad hoc basis. (Memorandum for the files by Russell, April 5; Department of State, NEA Files: Lot 59 D 518, Omega—Memos, etc. from March 24, 1956 to April 23, 1956)

On April 6, MacArthur met with Wilkins, Russell, and the representatives of the interested agencies. MacArthur outlined the project, described the respective functions and responsibilities of Wilkins and Russell, and established that the planning group would hold its first formal meeting on April 9 at 3 p.m. (Memorandum of conversation, April 6; *ibid.*, S/S—NEA Files: Lot 61 D 417, Omega #2) The group became known as the Middle East Planning Group. (Memorandum from Russell to Allen and Rountree, April 11; *ibid.*, NEA Files: Lot 59 D 518, Omega—ME Policy Planning Group 1956)

242. Memorandum of a Conversation, Department of State,
Washington, April 5, 1956, 12:15 p.m.¹

SUBJECT

Middle East Policy

PARTICIPANTS

The Secretary
Mr. MacArthur
Mr. Rountree

Ambassador Makins
Mr. Ronald W. Bailey

Ambassador Makins said he had received from Mr. Selwyn Lloyd the latter's views concerning policies in the Near East which were discussed by the Ambassador with the Secretary on April 1.² He stated these views presumably were also those of the British Government. He had reduced to writing the substance of the mes-

¹ Source: Department of State, S/S—NEA Files: Lot 61 D 417, Omega #2. Top Secret; Omega. Drafted on April 6 by Rountree. A notation on the source text reads: "Not cleared by the Secretary 4/9".

² See Document 232.