

in comparison with armaments which Egypt and other Arab countries were receiving from the Soviet bloc. Shipments from the West which were being criticized in the Near East were greatly misrepresented. Furthermore, Mr. Rountree noted that in addition to large quantities of arms going to the Arab states from the Soviet bloc, Egypt was serving as a channel for arms for Syria, Yemen and possibly other Arab states.

The Ambassador said that if the U.S. was not bringing pressure on France and also on Canada, he would think that we might issue an official denial. Mr. Rountree said the Secretary and press officers of the Department had continued to make clear the impartial policy of the U.S. We had not brought pressure on France and even now we had no information that Canada had taken action. The Ambassador inquired whether the U.S. itself planned to ship arms. Mr. Rountree said it was not likely that the U.S. would supply a significant quantity of arms to Israel.

3. *Baghdad Pact.* Mr. Rountree again confirmed the continued strong support of the U.S. for the Baghdad Pact, although it itself did not plan to adhere at this time. It was not U.S. policy to urge other states of the Near East to adhere. Each state should make this decision in the light of its own interest.

[Here follows a brief discussion of British colonial policy in the Persian Gulf; the situation in Algeria; and the Palestine question.]

347. Editorial Note

Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met at 3:45 p.m. on May 14, with President Eisenhower and his Staff Secretary, Andrew J. Goodpaster. Among the subjects considered at this meeting was the Department of State's proposed "Operation Stockpile". The following discussion ensued:

"Admiral Radford then discussed a proposal (which it appeared he had received from State) involving holding a ship loaded with military equipment ready to give to Egypt if aggressed upon, and a 'stock pile' of F-86s (from Italy) to Israel if attacked. He was concerned that such an arrangement would leak out. He said he would like very much to discuss the whole matter with State (there are some significant military questions involved) before any decision in principle was taken. The President said it would be quite all right to talk to State, since his whole idea had been that, if the matter could be worked out in agreement, it would be okay with him.