

**JULY-DECEMBER 1958: REAPPRAISAL OF U.S. POLICY;
THE BAGHDAD PACT MEETING; CONSIDERATION OF
ACCOMMODATION WITH PRESIDENT NASSER**

33. Editorial Note

Secretary Dulles was in London to attend the Baghdad Pact Meeting, July 28-29. Prior to the meeting, he met separately and jointly with the heads of the delegations of the pact on July 27 and 28 in discussions outside the formal sessions of the conference. On July 27 at 3 p.m., Dulles met with Iranian Prime Minister Eqbal at the Iranian Embassy and discussed bilateral relations as well as Baghdad Pact issues, especially the consequences of Iraqi nonparticipation in the pact. (Memorandum of conversation, July 27, London, USDel/MC/13; Department of State, Conference Files: Lot 63 D 123, CF 1061)

At 5:15 p.m. on July 27, Dulles met Pakistan Prime Minister Noon at the Claridge Hotel to discuss events in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Iran. Both agreed that it would be better if Iraq officially left the Baghdad Pact. Noon pressed Dulles to make a U.S. promise to join the organization when Iraq withdrew, but Dulles would make no commitment at that point citing the need for Congressional consultation. Dulles did stress the need to strengthen the northern tier countries. (Memorandum of discussion, July 28, USDel/MC/10; *ibid.*)

At 9:30 p.m. on July 27, the heads of all the delegations and their principal advisers met at Carlton Garden, London, to set an agenda for the formal sessions, exchange preliminary points of view, and agree on the general need for a public statement affirming the pact in light of the Iraqi coup. (Memorandum of conversation, July 27, USDel/MC/14; *ibid.*, Secretary's Memoranda of Conversation: Lot 64 D 199)

At 10 a.m. on July 28, Dulles and his advisers met with Turkish Prime Minister Adnan Menderes and Foreign Minister Zorlu. The conversation began with Zorlu stating that he was authorized to speak for the Turkish, Iranian, and Pakistani delegations in appealing to the United States to join the Baghdad Pact in order to give it "new life." Dulles responded that the pact was a "very loose" obligation requiring only consultation; perhaps, he said, what was needed was a "fresh start." Dulles hoped that some "formula" could be found within the circumference of existing legislation such as the Middle East resolution. Dulles suggested that the members of the pact should decide upon starting anew or building upon the present organization. Zorlu stated that under either option the United States should be within the pact as a full member. The two men then discussed the effect of the Iraqi coup, possible withdrawal of U.S. and U.K. forces from Lebanon and Jordan,