

this oil without requiring a joint manifesto. Such a manifesto might well inject a political element into the Middle East oil picture which does not seem at the moment to be present.

7. *Nasser*: The National Security Council is also considering in the same discussion paper the possibility of working with Nasser in the area and of accepting and perhaps attempting to influence his brand of Pan-Arab nationalism. We believe that more normal relations are possible with Nasser and that perhaps over an extended period of time closer and more effective relations on matters where our interests are parallel may also be possible. An agreement with Nasser does not necessarily imply the necessity of an agreement with the Soviet Union. While we see little possibility at the moment for a complete identity of interests with Nasser, we do not see that we could effectively seek to destroy him without the most serious consequences. The result would appear to be the necessity of accepting his movement and seeking agreement with him where agreement may be possible. We would accept his movement, however, only in those cases where it was not in fundamental conflict with our objectives.

Recommendation:

That, in the light of the NSC Planning Board paper, the NSC discussion of August 21, and Mr. Murphy's suggestions, NEA and S/P undertake on an urgent basis a study of the feasibility and desirability of revising NSC 5801/1.⁴

⁴ Document 5. Herter initialed his approval of the recommendation on August 25.

46. Editorial Note

On October 3, the National Security Council Planning Board revised the basic paper on U.S. Policy in the Near East, NSC 5801/1 (Document 5), and designated it NSC 5820. The complete text of NSC 5820, October 3, with its disputed language, is in Department of State, S/P-NSC Files: Lot 62 D 1, Near East, U.S. Policy Toward (File 20, NSC 5820-5820/1). All ellipses and brackets in the following quoted material are in the source text. One of the major differences between NSC 5801/1 and the revised paper of October 3 concerned the question of primary and secondary U.S. objectives in the Near East. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of NSC 5820 describe the objectives as follows: