

project was economically and technically feasible, the United States would be prepared to render financial support to it. Agreement was also reached to relocate the Baghdad Pact Atomic Energy Center from Baghdad to Tehran at the invitation of the Iranians. Iraq was not present at the meeting, and the member states agreed that its membership in the pact was a question for Iraq alone to decide.

57. Letter From the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs (Rountree) to the Ambassador to Egypt (Hare)

Washington, March 3, 1959.

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: As a result of events in the Near East over the past several months, we have, as you know, been giving urgent consideration to the effect forces currently active in the area have upon our own objectives and policies. This consideration has embraced other Agencies and has been reviewed at the highest levels of the Government. I am enclosing a statement¹ that represents approved United States policy on the Near East for your information, for the information of the senior members of the Country Team, and for circulation in your discretion to the principal officers of the other posts in your country.

Two basic trends in the area which have appeared to us to be inimical to United States and Western interests and seriously to be weakening the general Western position are the emergence of the radical pan-Arab nationalist movement and the intrusion of the USSR into the area. We have supported regimes which have been opposed to radical nationalism, while the Soviet Union has established itself as its friend and defender. The virtual collapse during 1958 of conservative resistance, leaving the radical nationalist regimes almost without opposition in the area, has brought about this present grave challenge to Western interests.

Faced with this challenge, we have sought to determine, in this broad consideration, which of our interests may be reconcilable with

Source: Department of State, Central Files. 611.80/3-559. Top Secret. Drafted by Newsom and cleared with Furnas. Identical letters were sent to Ambassadors in the Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iraq, and the Chargés in Israel and Jordan.

¹Not found attached; apparent reference to Document 51.