

which would in turn receive guidance from their respective governments.

6. The Government of the United States is in complete agreement with the judgment expressed in paragraph 12 of the United Kingdom memorandum that it would be desirable to have the Arab States as participants in the organization during the initial stage of its existence. The Government of the United States does not, however, consider that the proposals in paragraphs 13 and 14 and in the concluding paragraph of the memorandum are the most effective means possible for accomplishing this end. In the judgment of the Government of the United States, it is essential that the Arabs should be made to feel they are being treated as equals, and that their opinions as to the form and character of the organization carry weight with the sponsoring powers. This Government considers it particularly important to avoid giving the Arab States the impression they are being presented with a *fait accompli*.

7. Taking account of these considerations, the Government of the United States is of the opinion that the Arab States should be consulted concerning MEDO at the earliest practicable time, and that the sponsoring powers should evince a willingness to meet any legitimate points they have to make with respect to the form and character of the proposed organization. In the opinion of this Government it should be possible to consult the Arab States as soon as the area of agreement among the sponsoring powers has been revealed by their initial statements of position on the United Kingdom proposals. This Government would not favor the convening of any meeting of the sponsoring powers to discuss MEDO prior to such consultation.⁴

8. It is the view of this Government that the approach to the Arab States should be informal and that the proposed organization should be described to them in general and tentative terms. No formal invitation of any sort should be extended to the Arab States but they should be given to understand that the plans for the orga-

⁴ Telegram 1909 to London, Sept. 16, not printed, informed the Embassy that the only change requested by the British was the deletion of the last sentence in paragraph 7. Since comments from the sponsoring powers indicated some divergence of views among them, the British considered an unofficial and informal meeting of the London representatives of the sponsors the best way to collate the comments. The Department of State disagreed on this point, but suggested amending paragraph 7 to read as follows: "Taking account these considerations, US Govt of opinion that Arab States shld be consulted concerning MEDO at earliest practicable time, and sponsoring powers shld evince willingness meet any legitimate points they have to make with respect to form and character proposed org. This govt assumes that the area of agreement revealed by the current exchange of views will be sufficient to permit prelim discussions with the Arab States. If this assumption is correct, this govt wld favor the prompt initiation of such prelim discussions prior to any mtg of the sponsoring powers." (780.5/9-1652)