

nization contemplate their participation, that the structure as tentatively planned is not finally fixed, and that their comments and suggestions would be welcome. At no stage of these preliminary talks should the Arab States be required to take a firm position as to their willingness to participate. The procedures to be followed in these discussions would vary from one state to another. In some cases the approach might be made by the four original sponsoring powers acting in concert; in others, one power might take the initiative, with the other powers taking supporting roles.

9. It is the view of this Government that a decision as to the further steps to be taken in the establishment of the Middle East Defense Organization should be postponed until it becomes possible to assess the reaction of the Arab States to these approaches. The Government of the United States is convinced that plans for the defense of the Near East must proceed regardless of the attitude of the Arab States. This attitude, however, may affect both the form of the planning arrangements and the procedure whereby these arrangements are put into effect. The Government of the United States suggests that the Governments of the several sponsoring powers should exchange views as to further steps to be taken as soon as reports on the consultations with the Arab States are in hand.

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*Memorandum by the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Mutual Security Affairs (Martin)*¹

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] September 19, 1952.

Subject: Mr. Ohly's Memorandum of September 15--MEDO and United States Armed Policy in the Middle East²

In the Department's telegram to London dated September 6, 1952, number 1645,³ the statement "supply some arms and training assistance" to certain of the Middle East states in furtherance of the MEDO objectives was based directly on an official statement of position prepared with the approval of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense as a briefing document for the Presi-

¹ This memorandum was addressed to Frank Nash and John H. Ohly.

² Not printed.

³ The telegram under reference transmitted the undated paper prepared by Daspiit, *supra*.