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*Memorandum of Conversation, Prepared in the Embassy in Iraq*¹

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BAGHDAD, May 18, 1953.

Subject: Iraq

Participants:

United States

Honorable John Foster Dulles,
Secretary of State

Honorable Harold E. Stassen,
Mutual Security
Administrator

Honorable Douglas MacArthur,
II, State Department
Counselor

Honorable Henry A. Byroade,
Assistant Secretary of State

The Ambassador
Mr. Philip Ireland

The Prime Minister:

Iraq

Jamil al Madfai, Prime Minister
Ali Jawdat al-Ayubi, Deputy
Prime Minister

Tawfiq al-Suwaidi, Foreign
Minister

Nuri Said, Minister of Defense
Musa Shahbander, Ambassador-
designate to the United States
Yusuf Gaiiani Under Secretary,
Foreign Affairs

1. In his statement of welcome to the Secretary, Prime Minister said he was happy to see the Secretary visiting this area in these troubled times. He said he was particularly pleased to see him in Iraq which, being closer to the danger, was therefore appreciative of the difficulties of its position.

2. Palestine was the greatest obstacle to improvement of relations between US and Iraq. A settlement should be made in the interest of equity and justice, and to restore confidence in the US. Not until it was settled could the Iraq Government have a basis for creating public opinion in favor of mutual defense arrangements. Iraqis were far from satisfied with UN treatment of Palestine, but if an initial step were necessary, the Iraqi Government could discuss peace only on the basis of the UN resolution. In urging necessity of a just solution, The Prime Minister declared that, in the absence of such solution, Israel would find ways to expand at the expense of the Arabs in this area.

3. The Arab world was disturbed, not only by the situation in Palestine, but also by that of North Africa, which, unless a settle-

¹ This conversation took place at the office of the Prime Minister.