

fense, self-defense, and in the areas from which the danger would come—the northeastern and eastern frontiers.

Foreign Minister, Tawfiq al-Suwaidi:

The Foreign Minister then stated that in accordance with present plans, Iraq had the intention to cooperate with other countries on the same basis as with the other Arab countries. Iraq required aid and assistance. Iraq requested such aid. If such assistance were not forthcoming, Iraq would try to do what it could. It had an alliance with Great Britain and, through cooperation with it and the Arab countries, Iraq would be able to do something. This would be insufficient. He declared that any power asking Iraq cooperation and giving aid and assistance would be welcome.

Suwaidi then informed the Secretary that the Arab League Political Committee at Cairo had decided that the military experts of the Arab States should not meet until after two months to formulate their plans for self-defense, in order to permit Egypt and Great Britain to solve outstanding problems. Egypt would thereby be enabled to take its place in the Arab League Collective System.

The Secretary:

The Secretary thanked the group for the statements which he found frank and helpful. The Secretary then made a clear and impressive exposé of the dangers from Soviet policy, particularly in regard to nationalism and the creation of divisions among the free nations, and how the United States proposed to meet such dangers. In conclusion he stated that he believed a new look would be taken at US policy toward the Middle East. The Middle East must not expect any miracles; it must not expect anything soon. Nevertheless, he believed that a fresh start would be made.

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¹ This conversation took place at the office of the President of the Chamber of Deputies.