

Turkey in unique position assist solution Pushtoonistani issue. It was agreed Ambassador wld discuss these issues further with FonOff before arrival Pakistani Foreign Minister.

Ambassador expressed hope Pakistan wld ultimately adhere MEC, recalling indications he had recd from late Prime Minister and other Pakistani officials that they wld be actively interested once freed from threat of hostilities over Kashmir. Ambassador expressed belief that, while this still serious problem, it did not appear incapable of solution. We cld look forward to time when Pakistan wld make real contribution MEC bearing in mind had by far greatest military potential any country east of Turkey.

Ambassador observed that, in view close Pakistani-Iranian ties, Pakistan might be willing assist in defense Iran which appeared unable create any real defense capabilities. Prime Minister and Foreign Minister expressed interest this possibility, commenting if Pakistan and Turkey both exert conservative influence on Iran something may be done improve situation.

McGHEE

No. 64

780.5/3-452

*Draft Memorandum by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the British Air Chief Marshal (Elliot)*¹

SECRET

[WASHINGTON, March 4, 1952.]

Subject: Allied Middle East Command

1. The United States Joint Chiefs of Staff have considered the proposal contained in your letter to General of the Army Omar Bradley, SWE/20/52, dated 31 January 1952,² that a conference of

¹ This draft memorandum was enclosure A to a letter from the Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of State, not printed, dated Mar. 4. The letter requested Department of State concurrence on the draft prior to its despatch by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

A reply from Burton Berry to the Secretary of Defense, dated Mar. 7, not printed, stated that the Department of State was in general agreement with the position stated in the draft memorandum. (780.5/3-452) JCS records show that the memorandum was sent on March 18.

² Not printed. A copy of the letter was attached as enclosure B to the letter of Mar. 4. Elliot informed Bradley that the United Kingdom attached great importance to the establishment of a Middle East Command, but had not raised the point in the past few months in deference to the importance attached by the United States to the satisfactory admission of Greece and Turkey to NATO. The British Chiefs of Staff felt, however, that the time had come to reopen the question, and they had been considering, in consultation with the Foreign Office, the steps that

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