

for sake Arab cooperation necessary before consultation with Arabs likely to be feasible and useful. On other hand, believes essential avoid creating impression seven powers intend present Arabs with completed arrangements which they must either accept in full or reject.

(4) Dept had heretofore hoped that above problem might be solved by holding seven-power preliminary mtg in secret and keeping agmts tentative pending consultation with Arabs but recognizes that risk security leak may make it desirable effect seven power coordination through diplomatic channels. After such diplomatic coordination Dept believes all Arab states could be approached about same time and on same basis. This approach should be made in manner to convince each Arab state it receiving equal treatment with all other Arab states. On basis Arab reactions, could then be determined how best work out definitive form of org. *End Proposed Statement.*

Impt that govts NE states receive no intimation these ideas under consideration and Missions requested not discuss any aspect this message with them. <sup>4</sup>

ACHESON

<sup>4</sup> Telegrams 1985 from Cairo on May 5, 323 from Amman, 1185 from Ankara, 974 from Baghdad, and 1199 from Beirut on May 6, 856 from Damascus on May 7, and 645 from Jidda and 1171 from Tel Aviv on May 9 all concurred with the position stated in this telegram. Documentation is in Department of State file 780.5. On May 20, the Department of State delivered an oral reply to the British that was essentially the same as the position stated in this telegram. (Comments on U.K. memorandum of Apr. 29 on Middle East Command to be made orally; 780.5/4-2952)

## No. 74

PPS files. in 64 D 563, "Chronological, 1952"

### *Memorandum Prepared by the Policy Planning Staff*<sup>1</sup>

TOP SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] May 21, 1952.

#### *Problem*

To consider what measures might be taken to bring about an improved prospect for defense security in the Middle East between now and 1955.

<sup>1</sup> Sent to Maj. Gen. C. P. Cabell, Director, the Joint Staff, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, by Director of the Policy Planning Staff Nitze on May 26. It was to be used by H. Freeman Matthews, Deputy Under Secretary, as the basis for discussion with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at a meeting on May 28. The meeting was twice postponed, to June 4 and June 11, and was finally held on June 18; see Document 76.