

No firm position on Higher Polit Direction. Obviously some such device as UK proposes wld have desirable aspects. However org which included such body as integral part wld raise more serious polit question US.

ACHESON

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No. 78

780.5/6-2752: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

TOP SECRET      PRIORITY      LONDON, June 27, 1952—1 a. m.

Secto 19. At third bilateral conversation with UK held June 26 on Middle East Defense Organization, Indochina and Korea, Eden, Selwyn Lloyd, Strang, Dixon, Makins, Bowker and Hood were present for British and Secretary, Gifford, Jessup, Nash, Perkins, Nitze, Battle, Kirkpatrick and Palmer for US.

A. MEDO—Eden said he thought we were pretty much agreed on general lines of MEDO but there remained question of how to set it up. UK had thought until recently that Arabs shld be invited soon to join organization. British ME Chiefs of Mission at recent mtg, however, did not believe Arabs wld reply favorably to invitation. They thought therefore there might be something to be said for seven powers setting up organization. If any of Arabs then wanted to come in, they wld be welcomed. Chiefs of Mission felt thing to avoid was confronting Arabs with invitation, which wld necessitate their making decision. This wld probably result in refusal and make later acceptance more difficult.

Secretary said he did not think we were far apart on MEDO. He thought best procedure was to try work out remaining differences between UK and US, fol which French, Turks and Dominions wld be approached. When lines agreed among these seven, we cld then take quiet soundings from Arab states to see how they stand. If they are not willing to join now, we might then go ahead and set up organization. He agreed we shld not issue formal invitation now. Re MEDO itself, US has in mind looser organization than UK paper envisages.<sup>2</sup> Secretary then outlined our position re military

<sup>1</sup> Secretary Acheson was in London June 23-28, on the first leg of a trip to Berlin, Vienna, Dakar, and Rio de Janeiro. He received an honorary degree from Oxford on June 25 and, with his principal advisers, held a number of discussions on various topics with British officials on the other days of his stay. Memoranda of the conversations in London are in the Conference files, lot 59 D 96, CF 111. For additional information on his trip, see vol. v, Part 2, p. 1544.

This telegram was repeated to Pusan, Saigon, Paris, and Tokyo.

<sup>2</sup> See telegram 6830 to London, June 21, *supra*.