

of them. Taking a long view, no satisfactory defense arrangements for the Middle East can be made without the active and willing cooperation of these states. Whilst this cooperation might be achieved by some form of liaison between the organization and each Middle East state individually, it would be much more satisfactory if, in the initial planning stages, the states would actually participate in the organization.

"Tactics to be Adopted Towards the Arab States.

"It is unlikely, however, that the Arab States would in present circumstances accept a formal invitation to participate in the organization. Having once refused, it will be the more difficult for them to change their attitude later or to cooperate in any way with the organization. The British representatives in the Middle East consider that the establishment of an organization will be regarded by the Arabs as a token of the sincerity of Allied determination to defend the Middle East, and that the mere fact of its establishment would tend to attract Arab cooperation.

"The right line of approach to the Arab States would thus seem to be to inform them of the plans of the sponsoring powers, to indicate that we should welcome Arab association with the organization and that if, as seems probable, the Arab reaction is shy rather than hostile, we should then go ahead with the establishment of the organization and hope that as it proceeds with its work the Arab States will tend, individually or collectively, to cooperate progressively with it.

"Future Action.

"(a) Exchange of views on the UK proposals between the sponsor powers through diplomatic channels;

"(b) As soon as the sponsor powers have reached agreement an approach should be made to the Arab States to inform them of the intention of the sponsoring powers to establish MEDO in Cyprus and to sound out their willingness to join that organization in order to plan for the defense of the Middle East."

ACHESON

No. 80

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The Acting Secretary of State to the Secretary of Defense (Lovett)

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] July 10, 1952.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I enclose for consideration by the Department of Defense a copy of Secto 24, London, June 27, 1952¹ which contains a paper on the Middle East Defense Organization agreed to *ad referendum* by the United States and United Kingdom

¹ *Supra.*