

No. 85

780.5/9-552

*Paper Prepared by the Politico-Military Adviser of the Bureau of Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Daspit)*¹

SECRET

[WASHINGTON, undated.]²

UNITED STATES COMMENTS ON THE UNITED KINGDOM MEMORANDUM
ON THE MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

The Government of the United States has studied the proposals for the establishment of a Middle East Defense Organization set forth in the United Kingdom memorandum handed to the Department of State August 11, 1952 and desires to make the following comments.

1. Subject to the considerations set forth below, the United States Government is prepared to participate in a Middle East Defense Organization and considers the United Kingdom proposals a satisfactory basis for the establishment of such an organization. In agreeing to participate in an organization of the general character described in the United Kingdom memorandum, the United States Government would be prepared to designate a representative to the

¹ This paper is a statement of the U.S. position on a British memorandum of Aug. 11 setting forth proposals for the establishment of a Middle East Defense Organization. The text of the British memorandum of Aug. 11, not printed, is the same as the text transmitted in telegram Secto 24, Document 79. Except that the last sentence of paragraph 6, "The chairmanship of the committee would rotate," had been deleted in the Aug. 11 text.

The source text was attached to a memorandum from Byroade to Matthews, dated Sept. 5, not printed. The memorandum informed Matthews that the paper reflected agreement reached with the Department of Defense, and an advance copy of the paper had been given to them on Sept. 4. Unless Defense registered an objection, the paper was to be handed to the British that afternoon. The source text bears the notation "O.K. H. [Freeman] M[atthews]." (780.5/9-552)

Telegram 1645 to London, Sept. 6, transmitted this paper to the Embassy in the United Kingdom. Telegram 1646 on the same day informed the Embassy that a Department of State officer made the following points when he handed the paper to a representative of the British Embassy: The United States "1. wld postpone circulation to other sponsors until middle next week in order give Brits time comment if they desired. 2. Re suggested procedure para 7, Dept thought that fol receipt comments of all sponsors on UK memo shld be possible prepare paper indicating general area agreement—a sort of lowest common denominator showing only essential outlines of proposed org. This paper wld not necessarily be shown Arabs but wld serve as briefing paper for reps who wld discuss MEDO with them. Such generalized position preferable for type tentative conversations Dept favors. Dept hoped that Brits wld undertake prepare such paper." (780.5/9-652) This paper was also transmitted on Sept. 16 in telegram 1555 to Paris, 372 to Ankara, 40 to Pretoria, 45 to Wellington, 50 to Canberra, 218 to Amman, 591 to Cairo, 167 to Damascus, 312 to Baghdad, 518 to Beirut, and 143 to Jidda. (780.5/9-1652)

² Delivered to a representative of the British Embassy on Sept. 6.