

states that the "US should be prepared to play a larger role in safeguarding Western interests in the area . . . by providing appropriate economic, technical and military assistance".<sup>6</sup> The study of the allocation of U.S. resources now under way should give clearer indication of the amounts of assistance the U.S. can provide for the Near East area in implementation of this policy. In addition, the Department of State is now preparing for NSC consideration a further development of the position stated in 129/1. Moreover, as you know, the Department of State has requested the Department of Defense to undertake a study of the problems involved in a forward defense of the area with particular reference to the forces, equipment and facilities required. The results of this study, we understand, may be available by the end of the month.

We feel that the studies listed above may provide a solid basis for the work of developing military aid programs for some of the Middle East States and possibly for an Executive Branch request for additional legislative authority. In the meantime, as was agreed with you in our meeting of September 15, representatives of the Department of State are exploring with officers of the Department of Defense the preliminary steps which can now be undertaken in planning for such programs and what can now be done to provide against the eventuality that the several studies mentioned above will indicate the desirability of including additional provision for the Near East States in Mutual Security Legislation for 1954.

We will, of course, keep you currently informed of developments in this matter and will furnish you with additional data as these become available.

EDWIN M. MARTIN

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<sup>6</sup> Ellipsis in the source text.

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### *Editorial Note*

The French Ambassador came to the Department of State on July 24 to inform Byroade that the French felt strongly that the Middle East Defense Organization must have a formalized type of central direction which should come from the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Standing Group. Byroade answered that the Arabs would probably have much less interest in the organization if it appeared that the United States, United Kingdom, and France were retaining sole direction. (Memorandum of conversation, July 24; 780.5/7-2452) On August 1, the Counselor