

No. 90

780.5/10-152

*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of State (Nolting)*¹

TOP SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] October 1, 1952.

Subject: French Position regarding MEDO.

Participants: General Omar Bradley, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Mr. Nitze—S/P

Mr. Nolting—G

Mr. Nitze and I went to see General Bradley in order to enlist his support in dissuading the French from their insistence on holding a US-UK-French meeting to discuss the French proposal that the NATO Standing Group should serve also as the High Military Authority of MEDO. Mr. Nitze pointed out that the French had previously presented us with an *Aide-Mémoire* urging the Three-Power meeting and we had prepared a reply, opposing the suggestion, which had been forwarded to Defense for concurrence.² The British had discussed the matter with the French and we were in receipt of a telegram from London in which the British suggested that such a Three-Power meeting was necessary before the French would proceed to comment on the British proposals for MEDO.³

General Bradley agreed that it is unnecessary and undesirable to hold a Three-Power meeting on this subject. He said that the French should be dissuaded from their position that the NATO Standing Group should be expanded into a Three-Power "Combined Chiefs of Staff".

In discussing tactics, Mr. Nitze reverted to a suggestion previously made that Air Marshal Elliot should designate an officer on his staff who would consult with the staff of the JCS on non-NATO matters, especially Middle East defense matters. Mr. Nitze suggested that if we did this, the British would feel that they have a better "in" with us in world planning, and as a result would be less inclined to support the French in the matter concerning MEDO. General Bradley said that Elliot has recently been pressing him on

¹ A copy of this memorandum was forwarded to the Secretary of State.

² See the letter from the Secretary of State to the Secretary of Defense, Document 88.

³ Presumably, this reference is to telegram 1791 from London, Sept. 26, not printed. The Embassy reported the British Foreign Office had expressed a strong hope that the Department of State could arrange for an informal tripartite discussion of the French *Aide-Mémoire* of Aug. 15 by the military representatives of the three powers in Washington. (780.5/9-2650)