

cept became more feasible militarily, provided Iran does not go Communist. He considered that the Turkish army, plus US and UK air power working on the flank of any invading force approaching the Middle East through Iran, could greatly impede, if not prevent, the conquest of the Middle East. If, however, the flank of an invading force were made less vulnerable by an Iran allied with Russia, the defense task would become immeasurably more difficult.

General Bradley raised the subject of the pending anti-trust suits against certain American oil companies,⁴ and expressed the strong view that these suits were gravely jeopardizing our supply of strategic oil. He said that it was his impression that not only in the Middle East, but also in other countries where American oil interests operate, it was likely that the countries would adopt the attitude that they would not do business with companies which were under indictment by their own government. I did not gather that he had any specific or immediate cause for alarm in this respect, but that he was predicting a trend which would in his view undoubtedly arise from these suits. We reviewed what we had done in this matter, and what our attitude had been from the first, but no conclusions were reached as to how to ameliorate the ill effects in foreign and defense policy of this anti-trust action.

FREDERICK E. NOLTING, JR.

⁴ For documentation, see Documents 242 ff.

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Editorial Note

The Greek Ambassador called at the Department of State on August 11 to tell the Under Secretary of State that the Greek Government was very interested in becoming a member of the Middle East Planning Group. He was told there seemed to be many complex problems incident to Greek participation which should first be resolved, but that the Department would give him a reply as soon as possible. (Memorandum of conversation by Dixon, August 11; 780.5/8-1152) The Greek Ambassador called again on August 18 to restate the official interest of the Greek Government in participation in the planning of a Middle East Defense Organization. He stated that Greece was not prepared at that time to contribute any forces to the proposed Organization, but could help with advice and "with our islands—Cyprus and the Dodecanese." The Government of Greece had not presented its views to any other sponsoring