

power except the United States, and it was agreed the Department of State position would be formulated and discussed with the Ambassador before any further steps were taken by either government. (Memorandum of conversation by Baxter, August 18; 780.5/8-1852)

Telegram 348 to Ankara, September 12, repeated to Athens, Paris, and Rome, informed those Embassies the Department of State had not yet formulated its views on the Greek request, but thought the Greeks should be discouraged on the basis that Greece had heavy responsibilities in connection with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Greek interests in the Middle East could be safeguarded by the contemplated close liaison between MEDO and NATO. On September 19, the Greek Ambassador again called at the Department of State to bring officially to the Department's attention the fact that Greece had made a formal request to each of the sponsoring powers for inclusion in the Organization. Documentation is in Department of State file 780.5.

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### No. 92

780.5/19-652: Telegram

#### *The Secretary of State to the Embassy in the United Kingdom*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

WASHINGTON, October 6, 1952—2:03 p. m.

2434. Dept has recd Grk *aide-mémoire* thru Am Emb Athens<sup>2</sup> similar those delivered other sponsoring powers requesting Grk participation seven-power discussions re org ME defense. Grk Amb in discussing question with Dept made clear that Grks wish become MEDO sponsor.

Dept recognizes that (1) Greece not located in ME and thus unable supply bases or facilities for ME defense, (2) Greece cannot be expected make significant contribution of troops or equipment to ME defense. Grk Amb has stated to Dept Greece has important influence with Arab States, which if true wld be possible compensating factor but little evidence this in fact case. On above basis Dept does not consider Greece shld become member MEDO. If, in spite these considerations, Greece admitted MEDO, wld be difficult exclude certain other states peripheral to ME with similar or even

<sup>1</sup> Also sent to Paris, Ankara, Wellington, Canberra, and Pretoria, and repeated for information to Athens and to Rome for Unger. Drafted by Dixon and Daspit, and cleared by NEA, GTI, NE, SOA, BNA, WE, RA, and S/S-CR.

<sup>2</sup> The Greek *aide-mémoire* was transmitted as an enclosure to despatch 284 from Athens, Sept. 12. (780.5/9-1252)