

USG fully shares view of Fr Govt that Govt Israel shld be informed of any discussions looking toward estab MEDO and of work of org, once it is estab."

FYI only. Gen Bradley is informally making known to Fr and UK reps Standing Grp milit view re Fr proposed tripartite mtg and Standing Grp question.

BRUCE

No. 95

780.5/19-1752: Circular telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to Certain Diplomatic Missions in the Near East*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, October 17, 1952—8:26 p. m.

449. Part I of II. Brit Emb informed Dept² that UK now prepared join other sponsors in early approach to Arab States on MEDO. Fon Off sounds note of warning that care must be taken to prevent prelim exchange of views with Arabs from developing into interminable and fruitless negotiations and emphasizes need to show in near future real evidence of determination and ability to resist aggression in ME.

A.1. Fon Off considers necessary present Arabs with written text in order to avoid subsequent misunderstanding. Proposes that each Arab Govt be told that similar communications being made to others, that Govt's written or oral comments wld be welcome and that if Govt chose to designate rep to pursue discussions with sponsoring powers, this acceptable. Also proposes, inform Govts that no commitments had been made regarding Israeli participation and Israeli Govt not being invited to comment at this stage.

2. Fon Off opposes multilateral *démarche* and suggests communications shld be made in each capital by one rep of sponsors, other reps taking subsequently appropriate supporting action. Suggests rep who wld act in each capital wld be local doyen among sponsors reps.

¹ Sent to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jidda, and Ankara, and requested for information to London, Paris, Tel Aviv, Wellington, Canberra, and Pretoria. Drafted by Daspit and cleared by NE, GTI, BNA, and S/S.

² A memorandum of conversation, dated Oct. 13, not printed, recorded the visit of an officer of the British Embassy to the Department of State to present the views of the British Foreign Office on approaching the Arab States concerning the Middle East Defense Organization. He read a message from Eden to the British Ambassador and left the text of the proposed communication to the Arab States which is transmitted in this telegram. (780.5/19-1352)