

B. Dept continues hold that decision re proceeding with formal establishment MEDO must depend on assessment Arab reactions to initial approaches. US convinced that plans for ME defense must be developed in any event. However, Dept feels this might better be accomplished by inconspicuous and unpublicized arrangements in event Arabs demonstrate gen and strong hostility to MEDO proposals.

BRUCE

No. 97

780.5/10-2052: Telegram

*The Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Gifford) to the
Department of State*¹

SECRET

LONDON, October 20, 1952--9 p. m.

2304. Re Embtel 2280, October 19.² FonOff today took initiative in informing us tht convs with Turk Prime and FonMins re MEDO had been most satis. Within next few days, FonOff will be informing Dept more formally re convs thru Brit Emb Wash and Turks thru US Emb Ankara.³ Prior doing so, however, FonOff instructing Brit Emb Ankara clear minutes with Turks in order assure no misunderstandings re gen lines of talks as result possible faulty translation. Meanwhile, FonOff wished give us its understanding. FonOff said Menderes had expressed great appreciation for urgent need org ME def and reiterated Turkey's willingness participate. He felt there was urgent need for setting up MEDO. It wld be much better if Arabs wld participate, but sponsors must go ahead and org MEDO even if Arabs will not play.

Brit showed Turks copy of draft contained section B Depcirtel 449 Oct 17⁴ and explained Brit views re consulting Arab states as set forth section A. Menderes indicated that he thought it wld be desirable if all Arab states cld be brought into org, but he did not think this cld be accomplished by simultaneous *démarches* to all states concerned. He felt some are more interested than others. For example, he had recently talked to Regent here in London and he felt there was good possibility of persuading Iraqis to join org. If Arab bloc cld be split up on this question and one or more Arab

¹ Repeated to Ankara, Cairo, Baghdad, Damascus, Jidda, Amman, and Beirut.

² Not printed; it reported on a newspaper article concerning the visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister and Prime Minister. (780.5/10-1952)

³ See telegram 911 to Cairo, Document 104.

⁴ Document 95.