

## No. 101

780.5/10-2452: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Turkey (McGhee) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

ANKARA, October 24, 1952—9 p. m.

542. Section one of two. Re Deptels circ 449<sup>2</sup> and 539,<sup>3</sup> Oct 17, and London's 46, Oct 20<sup>4</sup> to Ankara. FonMin on Oct 23 gave Amb extensive account London meeting including MEDO discussion which are reported this tel. Other subjects being reported separate tels and entire conversation by desp.

1. FonMin said both Turks and Brit reaffirmed agreement organize ME defense as soon as possible, and that if, despite all efforts to gain their participation, Arab States were still reluctant to join, efforts shld be made to continue organization without them. FonMin emphasized in latter connection that agreement with Brit was that sponsoring powers shld proceed to carry out organ in some way, although he believes there is no necessity for deciding now just how this is to be done if proposal is rejected by Arab States.

2. British agreed with Turk viewpoint that every effort shld be made to get Arabs into MEDO from beginning. British abandoned their idea of proceeding without Arabs in hope of their joining later—the "setting up shop and waiting for customers" approach. FonMin considered this significant step forward in understanding between Turks and US on one hand and Brits on other.

3. Brits agreed to abandon idea that first invitation shld be written, and accepted Turk proposal that each Arab State be sounded out orally. Decision could be made later, in light Arab States' reaction, as to whether or not written invitation shld be extended. FonMin stated principal objective of tactics in approach on MEDO shld be to avoid consideration of question by Arab League. Turks feel that written invitation wld inevitably result in this.

4. FonMin told me in strict confidence of conversation which Turk Amb Cairo had with Naguib upon possibility Egypt joining MEDO (reported separately by Embtel 543, Oct 24),<sup>5</sup> results of which indicated Egypt not likely join under any circumstances until Canal Zone evacuated. On other hand, from PriMin and FonMin's conversation in London with Iraqi Regent (reported London's

<sup>1</sup> Transmitted in two sections; repeated to Amman, London, Paris, Cairo, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, and Jidda.

<sup>2</sup> Document 95.

<sup>3</sup> Presumably this refers to circular telegram 450, Document 96.

<sup>4</sup> Printed as telegram 2304 from London, Document 97.

<sup>5</sup> *Infra*.