

some beneficial political and psychological effect and would give the West an opportunity to reduce Middle East suspicions of Western "imperialist" designs. Such an organization is not likely to develop sufficient military strength in the Middle East during the next few years to cause the USSR to consider itself seriously threatened. Soviet rulers, however, would be particularly sensitive to any Western military moves in Iran.

No. 115

780.5/1-1653: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in India*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, January 16, 1953--6:24 p.m.

2031. Ind Amb discussed Pak association with MEDO with Secy² pointing out if this happened it wld be seized upon by various antagonistic elements in India who wld use it attack both Ind Govt and US. He felt this wld in large measure destroy work of Amer Amb and himself in cementing Indo-Amer friendship.

Amb was told Pak had not been approached on question, that question ME defense org still very much in discussion stage, that what was originally thought of as command structure now being discussed as planning operation and that views had been put forward as to possible contribution to such planning Pak might make with other views of concern being expressed about effect on India. Point was made that ME was without defense and there shld be some defense planning; that difficulties stood in way such as Egyptian situation and Arab-Israel relations. It was hoped planning for ME cld go forward without further increasing complications.

Amb referred to stories in press re discussion this problem in Paris and this was denied. Amb also referred to press report that question being discussed in London and he as informed Dept did not know of such discussions.

ACHESON

¹ Repeated as telegram 1007 to Karachi.

² The Indian Ambassador called at the Department of State on Jan. 13 to discuss Indian views on the Middle East Defense Organization.