

could easily exclude Egypt while [which?] primarily an African rather than Middle East power. Turk most exposed and most interested in Middle East defense, whereas Egypt least exposed and least interested. Therefore, MEDO should be centered in Turkey with northern Arab States joining as full equals. Chargé said Lebanon was amenable to this approach, Saudi Arabia no problem and Iraq's interests similar to Turkey's. Great stumbling block was Syria which insisted on aligning its policy with Egypt.

Although I suggested he find an occasion to tell British and French colleagues of his talk with Tawfiq Pasha he said he was not planning divulge it to them. His instructions from Ankara were to speak to Iraq Foreign Minister. He had sent full report to Ankara where Turk Foreign Office would use own judgment about revealing it to others. He urged me use utmost discretion in reporting this information in order not compromise him either with United Kingdom and French colleagues or with his own Foreign Office.

I therefore urge recipients this telegram observe appropriate caution in using foregoing information in order protect source.

BERRY

No. 121

Conference files, lot 59 D 95, CF 139

Memorandum of Conversation, by the Secretary of State

TOP SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] March 4, 1953.

Subject: General

Participants: The President

Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
of Great Britain

Ambassador Makins

Secretary Dulles

The meeting was essentially social and held in the living quarters of the White House. There was a general exchange of views with reference to the world situation, the effect of Stalin's death, and finally the discussion settled primarily on Middle Eastern matters.

Mr. Eden emphasized the importance of developing MEDO as a bulwark against possible deterioration of conditions in Iran. The President emphasized, in this connection, the importance of peace between Egypt and Israel without which MEDO would be rather meaningless. Mr. Eden agreed but felt that the first thing to do was to push through the Suez settlement and that Naguib could