

States and Great Britain, as was done for Turkey when it was found that the interest of the free world required shouldering of the responsibilities and the expenditure of the requisite funds to assist Turkey carrying out its defense duties.

If Iraq is required to discharge similar obligations in defense of its independence and territories, it is essential that it be extended every help and assistance and provided with necessary arms, supplies and the means of training required by modern armies. The required funds can be assessed by military experts and should be considered as part of what must be spent for the defense of the free world and all its vital resources against aggression.

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*The Chargé in Iraq (Ireland) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

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1182. Minister of Defense Nuri Said has given me review of Iraq defense plans along similar lines as to British Ambassador (Embtel 1180).² He did not mention Anglo-Iraqi treaty, Arab secret pact nor Israel.

In re source of arms and equipment, his approach differed from that described by British Ambassador. Nuri emphasized to me his wish for best arms possible. If American tanks were better than British, he wanted them; similarly with planes, etc. Material should be placed in Middle East which would do job of "stopping the Russians".

Cost of expansion, over and above Iraq's contributions, had been estimated at least 60 million dinars over four years. Iraq expected put up cost barracks, airfields, clothing, locally procured equipment, starting with approximately 14 million in 1954 budget of about Iraqi dinars 40 million. Emphasized Iraq could not supply remainder without severely affecting its development program which, in view of our past encouragement, he felt sure we would not wish to see crippled.

Upon my suggestion that beginning might well be made on a reimbursable basis through 408 (e) he professed inability to understand why this necessary. Grant had been given to Turkey as far back as 1947. We had built roads, etc., but Iraq did not ask for these. What we had done for Turkey in military aid we could

¹ Repeated to London as 67, to Ankara as 34, to Cairo as 72.

² Not printed.