

surely do for Iraq. Iraq could be performing valuable services for the west. "Would not the resistance of Iraq on the Iranian frontier", he inquired, "be of direct service to American interests in the Persian Gulf?" The defense of Ruwanduz and Halabja in the north, Khanazin and Basra would do just that. Iraqis might not be able to do the whole job alone, but they would give time for Allied forces to arrive.

Apparent from conversation that one obstacle to signing 408 (e) is belief by Ministers that it would bind Iraq to pay United States for equipment entire expansion program, a commitment not acceptable politically and because of impact on development program.

He proposed three steps looking toward United Kingdom-United States assistance in expansion of Iraq's defense forces:

1. Visit in near future of Anglo-American experts to assess Iraq's military needs and costs involved.
2. A subsequent visit by financial experts to assess what total cost Iraq could and should pay toward its defense.
3. Implementation of plan through assistance from United States-United Kingdom based on these reports.

IRELAND

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*United States Minutes of the Third United States-French Foreign Ministers Meeting, Washington, March 27, 1953, 9 a.m.*¹

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] April 6, 1953.

FPT MIN-3

Participants

U.S.

Secretary of State Dulles

Mr. Matthews

Mr. MacArthur

Ambassador Dillon

Mr. Merchant

Mr. Byroade

Mr. McCardle

French

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Bidault

Ambassador Bonnet

M. Alphan

M. de la Tournelle

M. Falaize

M. Roux

¹ A complete set of minutes of the Meyer-Bidault talks in March 1953, is scheduled for publication in volume VI.

FPT Special No. 4, dated Mar. 24, 1953, not printed, is a talking paper entitled "Special Political and Military Subjects," on the topics covered at this meeting. (Conference files, lot 59 D 95, CF 141)