

1. The degree of importance which the United States attaches to the area from the point of view of our security interest, having in mind the oil resources of the area or preventing these resources from falling into the hands of the enemy.

2. The kind of military assistance to be rendered and the objectives of such military assistance, both in "cold war" and in the event of armed conflict.

3. Alternatives for MEDO. Could the Arab League supply the basis for a practicable defense organization?

4. The possibility of a regional economic approach to the area by the United States, Britain, and France in view of the remote prospects of building viable economies in the individual states of the area.

5. Definition of our relationship with the U.K.

When you return, we hope for more light on these and other points which occur to you, in order to give the paper more meaning.

Bob

No. 135

Editorial Note

During the period May 9-29, 1953 the focus of the Near Eastern policy of the United States was on the visit to the Near and Middle East during that period of the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles. For documentation regarding this trip, see Documents 1 ff.

B. THE GENESIS OF A NEW UNITED STATES SECURITY POLICY FOR THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST: ESTABLISHING THE BASIS FOR THE BAGHDAD SYSTEM (JUNE 1953-DECEMBER 1954)

No. 136

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*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Jerne-gan)*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON, June 1, 1953.

Subject: The Situation in Egypt and the Near East

¹ A handwritten note on the memorandum reads: "Sec saw 5 June. R[oderic] L. O'C[onnor]."