

principally concerned. Ideally, we would probably prefer to have this restricted to the United Kingdom, Turkey and the United States but I recognized it would probably be necessary to include France as well. (Mr. Beeley said he thought the British Government would feel obliged to insist on participation by Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.) I did not think we would recommend the recent Turkish suggestion that the Western Powers proceed immediately to establish a formal public planning organization for Middle East defense. NEA, at least, considered such a formal public organization would be badly received by the Arabs.

Mr. Beeley said the working level of the Foreign Office had recently restated its own old position in favor of a public MEDO along the lines of the Turkish suggestion. This restatement was now being circulated among interested Government Departments in London. He himself was not sure however that this was a sound position nor was he sure that it was completely accepted in the Foreign Office itself.

In connection with the discussions on the Iraqi situation, Mr. Beeley indicated concurrence of the Foreign Office in the idea of working with individual Arab States, notably Iraq, as a start toward building up area defense.

No. 141

780.5/6-1853: Telegram

The Ambassador in Turkey (McGhee) to the Department of State

TOP SECRET

ANKARA, June 18, 1953—4 p. m.

1511. I believe it important that decision be made soonest regarding United States position on Middle East defense. Uncertainty as to definitive United States views will, I fear, result in increased differences among several MEDO-sponsoring powers and perpetuate current speculation there are serious differences between United States and Turkey this subject. Before my departure¹ I wish submit following observations as of possible use to Department in deciding best course of action. (See Embtel 1454, June 2² and Emb-

¹ Ambassador McGhee left his post in Ankara on June 19, 1953.

² Not printed; it summarized a memorandum handed to the Embassy Counselor by the Turkish Under Secretary of State on June 1. The memorandum reviewed the lack of favorable reaction from Egypt and other Arab States on the Middle East Defense Organization proposals and concluded that Arab participation in a defense organization was unlikely in the foreseeable future. The Turkish Government concluded, therefore, that the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Turkey should immediately establish a Middle East Defense Organization, clearly stating that the organization would be open to accession by all Middle East countries. (780.5/6-253)

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