

The question thus arises—assuming the Department of Defense continues to hold the views quoted above as to what form of Middle East planning arrangement we should seek to establish under existing circumstances, taking account of considerations both of military efficiency and of political expediency.

In the view of this Department, it would not now be desirable openly to establish an exclusively Western planning arrangement for Middle East defense in the face of Arab opposition. Such action would have adverse political effects and would probably further postpone Arab cooperation with the West. It should be possible to accomplish essential military planning through informal, and unpublicized, arrangements which would not risk these undesirable effects. Although it seems unlikely that they would be adequate for the purposes stated in the memorandum of the Joint Chiefs of Staff cited above, the present arrangements for continuing consultation between Headquarters, Allied Forces, Southern Europe, and the United Kingdom-Middle East Land Forces provide an example of the type of unpublicized Middle East defense planning which this Department considers appropriate under present circumstances.

The Department of State would appreciate being informed as to whether the Department of Defense continues to be convinced that defense planning arrangements for the Middle East should proceed even though Arab cooperation cannot now be expected, and, if so, the views of the Department of Defense concerning the nature of such arrangements and the countries which should participate.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN FOSTER DULLES

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*Editorial Note*

The Foreign Ministers of the United States, United Kingdom, and France met in Washington July 10-14, 1953. At the first meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the United States and United Kingdom, on July 11, the Middle East Defense Organization, Egypt, and Buraimi were discussed. At the second meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the United States and the United Kingdom, on July 14, Egypt, the Middle East Defense Organization, Buraimi, the Yarmuk River development program, and the move of the Israeli Foreign Office to Jerusalem were discussed. For a complete set of the minutes of the meetings, see volume V, Part 2, pages 1582 ff.