

## No. 144

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*Memorandum of Discussion at the 153d Meeting of the National Security Council, Thursday, July 9, 1953*<sup>1</sup>

TOP SECRET EYES ONLY

The following were present at the 153rd meeting of the Council: The President of the United States, Presiding; the Vice President of the United States; the Secretary of State; the Secretary of Defense; the Deputy Director for Mutual Security; the Director, Office of Defense Mobilization. Also present were the Secretary of the Treasury; the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission (for Item 1); General Collins for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Director of Central Intelligence; Robert Cutler, Special Assistant to the President; C.D. Jackson, Special Assistant to the President; Colonel Paul T. Carroll, Acting White House Staff Secretary; Ralph Clark, Central Intelligence Agency (for Item 1); Commander Perry Johnson, USN, Central Intelligence Agency (for Item 1); J. J. Hitchcock, Central Intelligence Agency (for Items 1 and 2); the Acting Executive Secretary, NSC; and Hugh D. Farley, NSC Special Staff Member.

There follows a summary of the discussion at the meeting and the main points taken.

[Here follows discussion of the following agenda items: electromagnetic communications, significant world developments affecting United States security, and the situation in Korea.]

*4. United States Objectives and Policies With Respect to the Near East (NSC 155)*<sup>2</sup>

In introducing the report, Mr. Cutler observed that it had been revised to reflect the views which the Secretary of State and the Director for Mutual Security had brought back from their trip through the Near East. The chief new points in the present report were as follows: (1) MEDO was no longer played up as a likely defense arrangement in the future; (2) Egypt was no longer considered to be the nucleus of an area defense organization, and the so-called northern tier of states had been substituted for it; (3) a new look had been taken at the Suez base problem; and (4) the report

<sup>1</sup> Drafted on July 10 by S. Everett Gleason, Acting Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

<sup>2</sup> Regarding NSC 155, see Cutler's memorandum, Document 134. For text of NSC 155/1, July 14, see *infra*.