

## No. 145

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*Statement of Policy by the National Security Council*<sup>1</sup>TOP SECRET  
NSC 155/1

[WASHINGTON,] July 14, 1953.

UNITED STATES OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO THE  
NEAR EAST \*

(Parenthetical references are to paragraphs in the Staff Study)

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. The Near East is of great strategic, political and economic importance to the free world. The area contains the greatest petroleum resources in the world; essential locations for strategic military bases in any world conflict against Communism; the Suez Canal; and natural defensive barriers. It also contains the Holy Places of the Christian, Jewish, and Moslem worlds, and thereby exerts religious and cultural influences affecting people everywhere. The security interests of the United States would be critically endangered if the Near East should fall under Soviet influence or control. (3)

2. Current conditions and trends in the Near East are inimical to Western interests. During recent years the prestige and position of the West have declined. The nations of the Near East are determined to assert their independence and are suspicious of outside interest in their affairs. In particular, the influence of the United Kingdom has been weakened, with distrust and hatred replacing

<sup>1</sup> Besides this statement of policy, NSC 155/1 includes a note by the Executive Secretary stating that the National Security Council and the Secretary of the Treasury had adopted NSC 155 at the 153d meeting of the NSC on July 9, subject to the changes made in NSC Action No. 843 (see *supra*). The President on July 11 approved the statement of policy as amended and approved by the NSC and directed its implementation by all appropriate executive departments and agencies of the U.S. Government, under the coordination of the Secretary of State. NSC 155/1 superseded NSC 129/1, Document 71.

Two appendices, Appendix A, "Near East Financial Data", and Appendix B, "Tripartite Declaration by the Governments of the United Kingdom, France, and the United States (May 25, 1952)", are printed below. An NSC Staff Study on "United States Objectives and Policies With Respect to the Near East" is also included in NSC 155/1. The Staff Study is not printed because many of the paragraphs are the same as paragraphs in the statement of policy printed here.

\* Includes Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Israel, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, the Arabian Peninsula Sheikdoms. Iran, the subject of a separate policy statement (NSC 136/1), is not included. This paper takes into account the importance of Turkey and Pakistan to the Near East, particularly as regards defense of the area, but does not attempt full coverage of U.S. policies toward Turkey and Pakistan, which are included in other NSC reports (NSC 86/2, NSC 109, and NSC 98/1). [Footnote in the source text.]