

unalterable opposition to the use of force or threat of force between any of the states in that area. The three Governments, should they find that any of these states was preparing to violate frontiers or armistice lines, would, consistently with their obligations as members of the United Nations, immediately take action, both within and outside the United Nations, to prevent such violation.

---

No. 146

780.5/7-3055: Circular airmgram

*The Secretary of State to Certain Diplomatic Missions*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET  
CA-442

WASHINGTON, July 30, 1953.

U.S. POSITION ON MEDO AND RELATED QUESTIONS

The Department refers to Embassy despatch No. 10, July 1, 1953<sup>2</sup> which reports certain views of the Counselor of the French Embassy and of the Head of the Third Office of the Direction General of Political Affairs, Foreign Office, concerning Middle East defense and asks for information concerning developments in connection with MEDO and related questions.

So far as the Department is concerned, MEDO is, at least for the time being, "on the shelf". The Secretary stated this position in his speech of July [June] 1st, 1953 in which he referred to a Middle East defense organization as a "future rather than an immediate possibility". In the course of the Secretary's tour of the Middle East, he found that Arab resistance to a Western-sponsored defense organization was so powerful as to rule out all possibility of securing their cooperation at this time. The British were informed of these conclusions in the course of the meeting of Foreign Ministers in Washington this month.

These views were discussed with the Turks during the Secretary's visit at Ankara. The Turks agreed as to the impossibility of securing Arab cooperation at the present time but urged the estab-

---

<sup>1</sup> Sent to Rome and repeated to London, Paris, Tel Aviv, Amman, Pretoria, Canberra, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Wellington, Karachi, Jidda, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, and Athens. Drafted by Daspit and cleared by NE, GTI, WE, RA, BNA, G, and S/S.

<sup>2</sup> Despatch 10 from Rome, not printed, reported that the head of the Third Office indicated his personal belief that the Western powers, particularly the United States and United Kingdom, were devising a system of peripheral defense in the Middle East, which would obviate the necessity for a Middle East Defense Organization. (780.5/7-153)