

sponse to questions from the Foreign Office or from representatives of the other MEDO sponsors.

DULLES

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The Secretary of Defense (Wilson) to the Secretary of State

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, August 17, 1953.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: In view of recent developments which seem to indicate that the establishment of a Middle East Defense Organization is not probable within the near future, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have restated the concept under which they believe military aid to the Middle East should be administered. Their concept has been approved and adopted as the Department of Defense position. Paragraphs of interest to the Department of State excerpted from the memorandum from the Joint Chiefs of Staff follow:

"In our memorandum dated 23 January 1953¹ (reference b of your memorandum), we expressed the view that the problem of military aid to the Middle East (ME) falls into two phases. This memorandum assumed that a Middle East Defense Organization (MEDO) would be established during the first phase of this program. Inasmuch as recent developments indicate that the establishment of a MEDO will be postponed indefinitely, it is considered desirable to restate our concept of the nature of these two phases. The first phase would be in the nature of a priming operation and modest in scope, designed primarily to establish a politico-military climate favorable for obtaining the participation of the individual states in planning for the defense of the ME. In this first phase, it would not be possible to relate individual allocations to an over-all plan. Second phase aid would be apportioned on the basis of detailed studies concerning requirements for defense of ME and these studies must necessarily be made by some form of Allied military planning organization in collaboration with the Arab States. As stated in this 23 January memorandum, we supported an increase of \$100,000,000 in FY 1954 Mutual Defense Assistance Program (MDAP) funds for military aid to ME countries as a part of the first phase.

"In arriving at a suitable force basis for the initiation of first phase military aid programs we are of the opinion that the type and size of the forces should:

"a. Be based generally on the size of the military establishments currently maintained by ME countries, with a view toward modernization rather than expansion.

¹ Not found in Department of State files.