

"b. Contribute initially to internal security and establish a foundation for eventual incorporation into an effective ME defense force.

"c. Be in consonance with the technical ability of the indigenous personnel."

As established in previous correspondence with the Department of State and as pointed out above, the first phase of this program is considered to be primarily for the purpose of establishing a politico-military atmosphere favorable for obtaining the participation of the individual states in planning for the defense of the Middle East. Except as allocations for the first phase may affect the second phase of the program, it is not possible to relate the initial allocations of aid to each country of the Middle East to an over-all military plan. In this connection, your attention is invited to the "Survey of Current U.S. Base Requirements Outside the Continental U.S." which will be forwarded to the Department of State within the next few days.²

Accordingly, the Department of State is requested to set forth the political factors which should be taken into consideration by the Department of Defense in planning the execution of the first phase of the program for the Middle East area.

Sincerely yours,

C.E. WILSON

² For documentation on this topic, see vol. II, Part 2, pp. 1590 ff.

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The Acting Secretary of Defense (Kyes) to the Secretary of State

SECRET

WASHINGTON, August 26, 1953.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: This is in reply to your letter of 26 June 1953¹ concerning planning for the defense of the Middle East in which you requested Defense Department views as to what form of Middle East planning arrangements we should now seek to establish under existing circumstances.

Your letter pointed out that, whereas the policy of the United States Government has been to proceed with planning arrangements on the assumption that Arab cooperation would be won and a Middle East Defense Organization established at a later date, the Department of State is now convinced of the improbability of ef-

¹ Document 142.