

bling Pakistan make essential military purchases without risk of damaging inflammatory publicity.

4. In case United States military aid granted, Embassy hopes Indian Government will be informed by United Kingdom its approval.

MILLS

No. 157

Ankara Embassy files, lot 57 F 72, 400 MED, 1953-54

*The Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asia, and African Affairs (Jernegan) to the Ambassador in Iran (Henderson)*¹

TOP SECRET
OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

[WASHINGTON,] November 9, 1953.

DEAR LOY: In your despatch No. 196 of September 30, 1953,² you referred to Cairo's telegram No. 280 of September 3,³ reporting that Nuri Said had told Ambassador Caffery that when the Shah was in Baghdad he had proposed a regional military agreement among Iran, Pakistan, Iraq and Turkey. You remarked that if the Shah actually made such a proposal he must have done so in a "moment of ebullience" and you went on to say that the Shah had not given any indication to you of a belief that the time may be at hand for Iran to enter into any such agreement. You added, however: "there is a possibility that if the Western Powers would undertake to modernize the Iranian Army, the Shah would show more interest in the establishment of an alliance among Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, and Turkey."

Your despatch happened to reach us at a moment when this subject had just been recalled to our thoughts as a result of working-level consultations with the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. We had found very keen working-level interest in the possibility of just such a regional arrangement as Nuri mentioned, comprised of the same four countries. This grouping would be ideal for the implementation of the strategic concept they favored You will recognize this as the classic British plan which has never been embraced by our own Joint Chiefs. We are unable to guess whether

¹ Repeated to the Ambassadors in Turkey, Iraq, and Pakistan.

² Not printed; it contained comments about an alleged proposal by the Shah of Iran for a regional military agreement among Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, and Turkey. (787.5/9-3053)

³ Not printed; it reported a conversation between Caffery and Nuri Said. (641.74/9-353)