

No. 164

780.5/11-3063: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Turkey*¹

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, December 24, 1953—4:06 p. m.

686. For the Ambassador. Decision on extension of military assistance to Pakistan has not as yet been made by the US Government.² Before requesting such a decision we wish to determine procedures to be followed in the event it is decided to go ahead. Conceivably the type of procedure that could be worked out might have a bearing upon the decision itself.

We think best way would be in form of support for some sort of regional defense cooperation initiated by states in the area. Believe this important both domestically and abroad to provide rationale for extension military aid programs beyond present geographical limits and to support our contention that assistance to Pakistan is directed toward defense against outside aggression and not against India or Afghanistan.

Recent reports from missions at Ankara, Baghdad, Tehran and Karachi seem to show that sole present possibility is to bring about bilateral Turk-Pakistani arrangement, which would however be open to adherence by others in future.

Urtel 557 November 30³ quotes Governor General Ghulam Mohammed as saying President Bayar confirmed to him Turk willingness to enter immediately into "defense pact" with Pakistan and further willingness to include Iran if and when Iranian conditions indicate sufficient stability. If Governor General's report correct and if he himself accurately reflects Pakistani views, there would seem to be no serious obstacle to early action by Turks and Pakistanis.

Unless you see objection request you approach Turks in greatest confidence without delay along following lines:

1. As Turk Government knows we have been considering program of military aid to Pakistan. We consider Pakistan has potential to make real contribution to defense of Middle East if assisted by Western Powers. However, there are certain obvious difficulties (such as Indian attitude) in way of military aid program and we have not yet come to final decision. We wish to consult Turks on this whole subject.

2. It seems to us that one way to minimize political repercussions and maximize Pakistani area defense contribution might be to link

¹ Repeated to Karachi, New Delhi, Tehran, Baghdad, Kabul, and London.

² See the memorandum by Byroade to Nash, Document 155.

³ Document 161.