

## No. 169

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*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Officer in Charge of Turkish Affairs (Wright)*

TOP SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] January 9, 1954.

Subject: Plans for Middle Eastern Defense Arrangements

Participants: Turkish Ambassador  
Mr. Jernegan—NEA  
Mr. Wright—GTI

The Ambassador called, at his request, to be brought up to date on developments. I gave him a rather full summary of our thinking and action in regard to the provision of military aid to Pakistan and the creation of a defense planning arrangement composed of Turkey, Pakistan, and possibly other countries in the area. I concluded by saying that we had still not arrived at a firm decision on military aid to Pakistan and did not intend to do so until we have received a definitive expression of the Turkish Government's views. I thought, however, that the balance presently was in favor of such a program and that the ultimate decision would be favorable if Turkey was in agreement.

The Ambassador asked whether we had talked to the British about this. I said that we had done so,<sup>1</sup> but not until after we had made our first approach to the Turks. The British did not seem to be especially happy but had raised no objections to our proposed plan of action. The Ambassador smiled and observed he was sure the British were irritated because the scheme did not provide a lead role for them to play.

While indicating his general approval of the proposed course of action, the Ambassador suggested two possible difficulties. 1. In trying to bring Iraq into a pact, we would have to reckon with the fact that the Iraqi people, as distinguished from their Government, would probably be opposed. 2. Afghanistan would be very much upset and might adopt an unfavorable attitude toward the US and Turkey if she were not at least offered the opportunity to join any arrangement which might be forthcoming.

With respect to Iraq I said we fully appreciated the delicacy of the Iraqi Government's position and did not intend to exert any pressure. We would not make American military aid to Iraq in any way contingent upon Iraqi participation in a defense arrangement.

<sup>1</sup> See the memorandum of conversation of Jan. 6, *supra*.