

a desirable alternative to present Afghan relation with and dependence on India.

6. Re paragraph 17, ⁶ Turks desire Department's reaction and further discussion their tactical suggestions, with particular respect to timing.

7. Re paragraph 18, ⁷ I stressed that this is an entirely new approach from that represented by previous MEC and MEDO proposals. Turks expressed both understanding and agreement.

8. Turks very concerned about leaks and widespread press speculation on this subject. They request consultation before either government makes any statement in this connection and desire to establish an agreed position as to when and what might be said.

WARREN

⁶ The Government of Turkey suggested that it might be advisable to discreetly give information to countries like Iran, India, and Afghanistan before a general announcement of the Turkish-Pakistan agreement. The Government of Turkey was prepared to take the initiative and agreed that the Government of the United States should not openly do so.

⁷ The Government of Turkey said it had no knowledge of the views of the other sponsors of the earlier Middle East Defense Organization to the aspect of the Turkish-Pakistan Agreement that might constitute a beginning for an organization to defend the Middle East.

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*Memorandum to the Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs (Merchant)*¹

TOP SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] January 12, 1954.

Subject: Proposed Turkish-Pakistan Defense Arrangement

Our recent inquiries regarding the present status of the proposed Turkish-Pakistan defense arrangement have established the following apparent facts:

1. We understand that the President has approved the principle of U.S. military assistance to Pakistan, but not as yet the medium through which such assistance would be proffered.

2. The NSC Planning Board is scheduled to take up "South Asia" on January 14. It is probable that the question of military assistance to Pakistan and the means of extending it will come up during the course of the discussion.

¹ Drafted by the Deputy Director of the Office of European Regional Affairs, Joseph Palmer, and the Deputy Director of the Office of British Commonwealth and Northern European Affairs, Andrew B. Foster.