

6. Department has informed British Embassy current status.

SMITH

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*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Turkey*<sup>1</sup>

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7. Department very much aware Afghan problem and appreciate initiative Turkey this regard. As basis reaching understanding believe Turks should have rundown our present thoughts. Afghan as noted in vulnerable position and subject to pressure from USSR. This illustrated recently by Afghan's dropping proposed contract with French firm re oil development in north because of USSR protest. Part of Afghanistan north of Hindi-Kush especially vulnerable.

8. Strong Soviet reaction and protest would be more firmly based than usual, since they might invoke Afghan-Soviet Treaty of 1931. This document provides (Article 2):

"Each Contracting Party undertakes not to be a party to any alliances or agreements of a military or political character with one or more Powers which might be directed against the other Contracting Party or any financial or economic boycott or blockade directed against the other Contracting Party.

9. Afghan interest obviously related to amount and timing of aid US might give. Should be pointed out that problem would have to be studied throughout US executive agencies and that considerable delay might ensue before any decision reached. Assuming favorable decision reached, funds which might be made available for Afghan program would be very limited. Situation this years MDAP budget very tight and budget for 1955 already submitted Congress includes no provision for Afghanistan.

10. On basis these considerations, seems questionable that benefits which might flow to Afghanistan under possible program of US military aid would be sufficient to compensate for difficulties and risks involved. Would appreciate estimate of Turks in this regard.

11. On other hand Department very sympathetic Afghans need for help and desires avoid impression of cold-shouldering them. De-

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<sup>1</sup> Drafted by Kennedy and Daspit, and cleared by RA and S/S. Repeated to New Delhi, Karachi, London, Paris, and HICOG Berlin.