

partment has under active consideration Afghan request for grant of 20 thousand tons wheat and hopes give favorable reply. Ex-Im Bank has formal request for new loan for development Helmand Valley, road improvement and certain other projects on which consideration being expedited. Foreign aid budget fiscal 1955 has provision for continued grant economic aid and it is hoped that funds will be appropriated for program somewhat above level now in effect. ²

12. Although on balance Department considers it would be unwise encourage Afghan request US military aid, Turk proposed approach (last para of 4 in sub C(d)) otherwise seems excellent. If at later date Turk-Pakistan arrangement begins attract adherence of other countries in the area, US would be prepared consider requesting Congress for funds to broaden base of its support. If Afghanistan among such additional adherents, its claim would be considered along with others.

13. If Turkey proposes agreement with Afghanistan similar to one with Pakistan, this might prove embarrassing to US at this time since we expect to use Pak-Turk agreement as framework for Pakistan military aid. Because of this believe it would be better if Turkey would make any agreement called for of different character. Turkey might wish consider adding to its approach suggestion it willing consider expanded training program for Afghan military personnel in Turkey.

SMITH

² For documentation, see vol. XI, Part 2, pp. 1447 ff.

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Editorial Note

Telegram 553 from Karachi, January 25, described a United Press despatch carried in Karachi papers on January 24 which reported the United States Government was not expected to make an announcement on arms aid to Pakistan until after the visit of Turkish President Bayar to the United States. The despatch then outlined "most information on Turk participation received here in Department's Top Secret communications. Embassy considers it not only most unfair but exceedingly damaging to Embassy-Pakistan relations that despite Turk request for 'utmost secrecy' American press should be able print such information from 'highly reliable sources' and we unable give one of principal participants, GOP, even inkling status of negotiations."