5. Egyptian support for the purposes of the Turk-Pakistani agreement will depend on the outcome of Anglo-Egyptian negotiations respecting the Suez base. If these negotiations are successful, Egypt's policy will probably be favorable to the general purposes of the Turk-Pakistani arrangement, particularly if Western military assistance were provided to Egypt.

6. The willingness of other Arab states to adhere to the Turk-Pakistani agreement will depend on the attitudes of both Iraq and Egypt. If either Iraq or Egypt should be favorable and the other unfavorable, the situation with respect to the other Arab countries would be difficult to assess; fears of Israel would increase, Arab balance of power rivalries would be intensified, and united Arab response could hardly be expected.

7. Whatever success may attend efforts to bring about a regional defense grouping on the Turk-Pakistani pattern, prospects for a tighter defense organization, with planning and coordinating functions and perhaps a combined command, are not likely to become more favorable unless there is a reduction of the basic incompatibilities of Western and Middle Eastern political objectives, and in particular a lessening of the tensions between the Western powers and the Middle East states which arise from the Anglo-Egyptian and Anglo-Iranian disputes and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Other rivalries and tensions in the area also present serious, though not necessarily insuperable, obstacles to the successful operation of a regional defense arrangement of this more effective nature. Such an arrangement could probably gain force and effectiveness only as a consequence of an enlarged direct political and military assistance role of the US and continued US/UK cooperation. France would play only a marginal role in these defense arrangements, although it would expect to be consulted. The UK, with its special treaty rights and positions, would be extremely vigilant in protecting its regional interests and would seek to reconcile the purposes of any regional arrangement with these interests.

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Editorial Note

The Conference of the United States Chiefs of Mission in the Near East Area (RECNE) was held at Istanbul, Turkey, from May 11 through May 14, 1954. Present at the Conference were Henry Byroade, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs; Burton Y. Berry, Ambassador to Iraq; Cavendish W. Cannon, Ambassador to Greece; Raymond A. Hare,