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TOP SECRET

ISTANBUL, May 14, 1954.

CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS ON REGIONAL SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST

In preparing the suggestions set forth below, the Conference considered it unnecessary to dwell on the basic considerations responsible for its belief that the erection by the countries of the Middle East of a strong regional security structure would be in the interest of the United States. It has assumed that the interested US Governmental agencies are already well informed in this respect. It might be pointed out, nevertheless, that the participants of the Conference are convinced that it is one of the objectives of the Soviet Union to bring the Middle East behind the Iron Curtain and that the Soviet Union is constantly maneuvering with the purpose of facilitating the attainment of this objective; that it is desirable that the people of the Middle East should have confidence that there is a possibility of preventing the Soviet Union from obtaining control of the area; and that the loss of the Middle East to the Soviet Union would represent a major catastrophe to the free world.

1. It is the consensus of the Conference that a regional defense arrangement among the nations forming the so-called "Northern Tier"—that is, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, and Turkey—would strengthen materially the security and stability of the Middle East, and would therefore be in the interest of the free world and in the national interest of the US.

2. The Conference, therefore, welcomes the arrangements which are being entered into between Turkey and Pakistan as a first step in the formation of the "Northern Tier".

3. The Conference is hopeful that the agreement entered into recently between the US and Iraq, under which the US under certain conditions is to furnish military assistance to Iraq, will tend to encourage Iraq to become a member of the "Northern Tier". The Conference believes that it would be a mistake for the US to bring

<sup>1</sup> Loy Henderson, assisted by Burton Berry and G. Lewis Jones, drafted this paper after a discussion of the topic by the participants at the Chiefs of Mission Conference at Istanbul, and it became Annex A to the Summary Record of the Conference. (120.4382/5-1454) For details of the Conference, see the editorial note, *supra*.