

If at an appropriate later date a program of arms aid to the Arab states should be instituted, it is believed that such aid will not materially change this power relationship for a considerable period after its initiation. It is also believed that a program of arms aid to Israel at the present time would result in Arab refusal to cooperate in measures designed to strengthen area defense. A program of military grant aid to Israel is therefore not now recommended. An arms aid program of the nature envisaged in the preceding paragraphs, however, might result in the danger that the arms would at some later time be used by the Arab states against Israel and will certainly give rise to fears by Israel of such a danger. To meet both the danger and the fear the Conference recommends:

(a) that Arab states contiguous to Israel be informed in discussions with them concerning possible arms aid that the Government of the US must be in a position publicly to state that the assurances which it had received from the Arab states not to use such arms for aggressive purposes were applicable to all countries, including Israel;

(b) that the US, the UK and France make public declarations of their intention to take specified economic and military sanctions to prevent the occupation by either Israel or the Arab states of territory of the other;

(c) that indirect and unattributed publicity be given to the fact that the contemplated scope, character and phasing of aid would not be such as to constitute a danger of their use for aggressive purposes.

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May 11-14, 1954*¹

TOP SECRET

ISTANBUL, May 14, 1954.

CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE COMMENTING ON
OIR CONTRIBUTION TO NIE 30-54, MAY 3, 1954²

The Conference of Chiefs of Mission held at Istanbul May 11-14, 1954 considered in considerable detail the problem of defense of the Near and Middle East against a Soviet aggressor and in some re-

¹This paper was prepared by James S. Moose and adopted by the participants at the Chiefs of Mission Conference at Istanbul. It is Annex C to the Summary Record of the Conference. (120.4382/5-1454) For details of the Conference, see Document 210.

² Document 209. NIE 30-54, is Document 215.