

10. While further US moves in support of the "northern tier" concept would in some degree increase US-Indian tensions, it is unlikely that an open rift would develop between India and the US as a result of this factor alone. Should Pakistan be materially strengthened as a result of US aid, India also would seek to build up its own forces. In any event, it is extremely unlikely that India would move significantly closer to the Soviet Bloc.

11. The USSR will attempt to counteract US efforts to build a defense grouping in the Middle East, particularly if US bases are involved. The USSR would increase its political warfare activities in the Middle East and might exert pressure on such vulnerable points as Iran and Afghanistan. We believe, however, that the USSR would not feel itself sufficiently threatened to undertake major retaliatory actions such as invasion of either of these states.

[Here follows discussion of the reasons for reaching the above conclusions. These included a brief history earlier efforts to develop a Middle East regional defense organization; the factors operating to the advantage and disadvantage of a regional defense grouping based on the Turkish-Pakistan agreement; the prospects for adherence of other Middle East states to that agreement; the political and military consequences of the creation of a loose Middle East defense grouping; the probable reactions of other interested countries; and the consequences of the failure of current efforts to create a Middle East defense grouping.]

No. 216

780.5/4-2354: Telegram

*The Chargé in Pakistan (Emmerson) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

KARACHI, June 23, 1954—1 p. m.

1065. Prime Minister asked me call yesterday evening, showed me letter from UK HICOM proposing GOP send one representative from each Pakistan armed service to UK for general talks on Middle East defense with particular emphasis on shipping. Letter stated these talks were envisaged as continuing very close and frank discussions started between British chiefs of staff and General Iskander Mirza during latter's sojourn London. UK HICOM stated commitments would grow out of talks and he felt sure there be no objection from Americans. Letter referred to document on

¹ Repeated to London.