

## No. 221

S/S-NSC files, lot 63 D 351, "NSC 155 Memoranda"

*Paper Prepared by the Operations Coordinating Board*<sup>1</sup>

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, July 29, 1954.

PROGRESS REPORT ON NSC 155/1 UNITED STATES OBJECTIVES AND  
POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO THE NEAR EAST

(Policy approved by the President July 11, 1953)

## A. SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIONS

Major factors limiting the ability of the U.S. to carry out the courses of action specified were the deterioration of the Arab-Israel situation, and the difficulties encountered by the UN in dealing with the problem; lack of progress in resolving disputes between the Arab states and the U.K. and France; and the growing activity of the USSR. Major accomplishments include the Turkish-Pakistan Pact, the military assistance agreement with Iraq, implementation of the U.S. policy of impartiality between the Arab states and Israel, and progress toward securing acceptance of a unified plan for the development of the Jordan River system.

The conclusion of grant military aid agreements with Iraq and Pakistan, as well as U.S. support of the Turkey-Pakistan Mutual Assistance Pact, have been initial contributions to the development of a politico-military climate favorable to the eventual development of a regional defense organization including Western and Middle East powers. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have agreed on objectives for the defense of the Middle East and subsequently have proposed to the British Chief of Staff that it would be profitable at this time to

<sup>1</sup> The source text is part of the record copy of a National Security Council document entitled "Progress Report on United States Objectives and Policies With Respect to the Near East by the Operations Coordinating Board," dated July 30, 1954. Included in the document is a July 30 memorandum by George A. Morgan, Acting Executive Officer of the OCB, to the Executive Officer of the National Security Council, transmitting the report. The Morgan memorandum stated that the report was approved by the Operations Coordinating Board on July 28. It also noted that the amended version of NSC 155/1 had been circulated as NSC 5428 and assigned to the OCB, and that subsequent progress reports would be concerned with the implementation of NSC 5428. Also attached to the Progress Report was an annex entitled "Detailed Development of Major Actions," not printed.

Another copy of the report, found in the OCB files, was attached to a memorandum, dated Sept. 29, 1954, from Staats to the OCB. The memorandum stated that the report was noted and discussed by the NSC on Sept. 2, 1954, in NSC Action No. 1211. (OCB files, lot 62 D 430, "Near East, 1954-5") The Record of Actions by the National Security Council at its 212th meeting on Sept. 2, merely notes that the NSC noted and discussed the Progress Report. (S/S-NSC files, lot 66 D 95, "Record of Actions by the NSC, 1954")