

674.87/8-2254: Telegram

*The Chargé in Iraq (Ireland) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

BAGHDAD, August 22, 1954—10 a. m.

105. Conversations with Prime Minister Nuri and members of his government indicate that Nuri and Iraqi Government following Iraqi-Egyptian conversations and agreements are moving away from Turk-Pakistan pact and multilateral arrangements involving Pakistan, Great Britain (Embtel 86, August 17, 1954)<sup>2</sup> toward plan invoking Arab Collective Security Pact modified in accordance with Article 51 of the UN charter and expanded to permit membership to non-Arab states. This proposal, given in more detail below, is to be placed before UK and US for their consideration and comments before action by Iraq and Egypt.

As background, Nuri said Egyptians at Sersank had indicated that with signature of Anglo-Egyptian agreement,<sup>3</sup> their hostile attitude toward Iraq and to cooperation of Arab states with west had altered. They now saw merit in cooperation with west and were even ready to work toward it.

Egyptians at Sersank opposed Turk-Pakistan pact as well as multilateral arrangements with Pakistan which Nuri admitted he had in mind (reftel). They argued in particular that Pakistan was neither militarily nor geographically analogous any Arab state. When Egyptians asked for alternative proposal as basis for Arab cooperation with west, Nuri said he had brought forward Arab collective security pact, to be suitably modified to meet spirit of Article 51 of UN charter and to permit membership of non-Arab states as Turkey, Great Britain, Iran and Pakistan and even United States. He said he had been surprised at welcome given his proposal by Egyptians.

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Cairo, Ankara, Karachi, London, Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Jidda, Jerusalem, Tehran, and Tripoli. Transmitted in two parts.

<sup>2</sup> Telegram 68 from Baghdad, Aug. 9, reported the Egyptian Minister of National Guidance, Maj. Saleh Salem, was expected to arrive in Baghdad on Aug. 13 with a party of about 20. They planned to visit the King and Crown Prince at Sersank for a few days and then go to Baghdad. (674.87/8-954)

Telegram 86 reported that Nuri intended to review Iraq's foreign policy, not just "Arab policy" with Salem. He intended to propose alteration of the Arab League Collective Security Pact to permit the inclusion of Pakistan, Great Britain, and the United States. If Egypt refused to accept that, Nuri would counter with a proposal that would leave Iraq free to set up a regional defense plan, initially with Pakistan, but later to be expanded to include the Arab States, the United Kingdom, and possibly the United States. (674.87/8-1754)

<sup>3</sup> Regarding the Heads of Agreement between Egypt and the United Kingdom, signed on July 27, 1954, see Document 1348.