

file 780.5. There seems to be no direct response from Ankara, the Embassy rather concentrating on forwarding information supplementary to telegram 441. Ankara offered no explanation as to Menderes' action in not signing at that time.

Replies from Damascus and Beirut, especially Damascus, emphasized that Nuri Said was probably less interested in regional defense than in union between Iraq and Syria under the Hashemite royal house. Israel already disliked the northern tier concept and viewed with great apprehension the Menderes plan for expansion of the regional defense grouping to include Arab states. The British Foreign Office perceived no essential incompatibility between a regional grouping based on the northern tier concept and one based on the Arab League Collective Security Pact. The Iranian reaction, transmitted in telegram 1016 from Tehran, November 3, is printed *infra*. (Telegrams 181 from Damascus, October 30; 383 from Tel Aviv, October 31; 432 from Beirut, November 1; and despatch 1230 from London, October 29)

No. 235

780.5/11-354: Telegram

*The Chargé in Iran (Rountree) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

TEHRAN, November 3, 1954—6 p. m.

1016. Re Deptel circular 211² and Ankara's 441³ to Department. Iranian attitude toward regional security arrangements and problems relating Iranian adherence to Turkey-Pakistan treaty undoubtedly being discussed by departmental officers with Ambassador Henderson. There have been no local developments since Ambassador's departure which would have bearing upon his evaluation of situation.

As Department aware, attitudes in Iran re possible adherence to security pact have improved considerably in recent months particularly following Soviets clumsiness in July 8 *aide-memoire*.⁴ Certain Iranian newspapers with some regularity refer to futility of neutrality for Iran and necessity for country take its stand with free world; Government apparently attempting cautiously to prepare public for moves in direction adherence to regional security ar-

¹ Repeated to Ankara, Cairo, Karachi, Baghdad, London, Paris, Damascus, Jidda, Beirut, and Amman.

² Not printed, but see footnote 3, Document 233.

³ Document 233.

⁴ Documentation on the Soviet note to Iran is scheduled for publication in volume x.