

rangement. Nevertheless, we continue believe Iranian decision this connection not likely to be made before US is prepared discuss with Shah extent to which aid will be given in strengthening Iranian forces. Until then, therefore, we do not believe it would be particularly fruitful for either Turks or Iraqi make definite proposals to Iran re bilateral treaty. Moreover, we inclined believe once Iran is in position to make decision it would be far more reluctant to undertake bilateral pact with Iraq, also relatively weak contributor to area defense, then it would to adhere to existing Turkey-Pakistan treaty with knowledge this measure would have strong US support.

On other hand, if considerations in Iraq, Syria and other Arab states such as to render it advisable adopt procedure under which series bilateral agreements would be made, failure of participants, and particularly of US, to consult fully with Iran might lead to concern on part Iranians that interested countries are proceeding with defense arrangements without due regard Iranian security. This concern would be aggravated in light previous omission attack on Iran as criterion for re-activation Suez base. It therefore important that Shah and Iranian Government be kept informed as to intentions other parties, rough timetable, and fact that Iran free to participate if it so desires.

ROUNTREE

No. 236

780.6/10-2354: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Turkey*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, November 11, 1954—12:17 p. m.

548. Ankara's 441² and replies to Depcirtel 211.³ We hopeful series conversations planned by Menderes may assist on Middle East defense and Arab-Israel problems. Ankara requested convey to Menderes following on confidential basis:

1. We appreciate opportunity work with him. We believe he will agree that matter complicated by lingering Arab sensitivities carried over from Ottoman days and Arab resentment realistic Turkish policy toward Israel.

¹ Drafted by Burdett and cleared by NE, NEA, Defense-OFMA, and GTI (Ambassador Henderson, paragraph 5). Repeated to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Tehran, Damascus, Jidda, London, Karachi, and Paris.

² Document 233.

³ Not printed, but see footnote 3, *ibid.*, and Document 234.