

case of attack on Iran (Beirut to Dept. 599),⁶ actually seem reflect more broadminded and fluid attitude. Would therefore appreciate Embassy Cairo's comments as to whether Egyptian reaction would actually be of serious nature if Iraq acceded to Pact or undertook bi-lateral with either party.

7. Embassy Ankara may wish give substance of Baghdad's 381 to Department along with Department's views expressed in paras 1 and 2 above to Menderes or Foreign Office.

DULLES

⁶ Dated Dec. 23, not printed. It reported the results of an Arab League meeting, concerned with strengthening the Arab League Collective Security Pact. An Embassy officer in Beirut was told the participants at the meeting agreed Iraq could enter into a cooperative agreement with Iran. (786.00/12-2354)

No. 241

780.5/12-3154: Telegram

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

SECRET

WASHINGTON, December 31, 1954--5:34 p. m.

1002. Department disturbed note Nasir has twice to our knowledge taken line with other Arab leaders that US Government has "given up" idea of Arab adherence to Turkey-Pakistan pact (Cairo tel 312 Sept 8)² or supports idea that Arabs should "collectively take initiative for regional defense" presumably to exclusion non-Arabs (Beirut tel 599 rptd Cairo as 96).³

Unless you perceive objection you should take earliest opportunity explain US position to Nasir. Department suggests you tell Nasir that during discussions in recent months on Middle East Defense problems we have become aware of some misapprehension as to what our position is. An erroneous view seems to have gained currency in some quarters that US favors idea Arabs should collectively and exclusive of non-Arabs, take initiative for regional defense. You should emphasize we support fully northern tier defense concept as offering best prospect creating area strength.

DULLES

¹ Drafted by Allen and Frye and cleared by NEA. Repeated to Baghdad, Beirut, Amman, Ankara, Damascus, Jidda, London, Paris, and Tehran.

² Document 228.

³ Not printed, but see footnote, *supra*.