

rangement along treaty of Portsmouth⁵ lines might meet situation. HMG has therefore been restudying that treaty from point of view considering how it might be made more acceptable. (For example, placing emphasis on UK use airfields on invitation Iraqi Govt and dropping any clause similar that permitting continued use as of right until conclusion peace treaties Germany.)

Recognizing foregoing may not meet situation, FonOff has also been exploring other alternatives such as possibility arrangements for use fields within MEC concept and even complete evacuation airfields if, in last analysis, this were necessary to assuring continuance alliance.

FonOff emphasizes highly confidential and purely precautionary nature foregoing study. UK has taken and will take no moves initiate discussion with Iraqis and is merely preparing itself move quickly if Iraqis precipitate matter which they have not done yet. FonOff repeats treaty not discussed during Robertson's visit and there are no conversations formal or informal, taking place at present time.

Foregoing undoubtedly is explanation for hints dropped by Brit Emb Baghdad (Baghdad's 646 Feb 20 to Dept⁶) re Habaniya and Shaiba.

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⁵ For documentation on U.S. interest in the Treaty of Portsmouth of 1948, a revision of the Treaty of 1930, which never went into effect, see *Foreign Relations*, 1948, vol. v, pp. 202 ff.

⁶ Not printed, but see footnote 4, *supra*.

No. 1378

787.56/4-2152: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Iraq (Crocker) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

BAGHDAD, April 21, 1952--2 p.m.

901. Emb views re mil assistance to Iraq (Embtel 893, April 19²) as follows:

1. Former basis on which we have parried Iraqi requests for arms, i.e. primary responsibility of UK under Anglo-Iraq Treaty, has become galling in the extreme to the Iraqis and is anachronis-

¹ Repeated to London.

² Not printed; it reported the Embassy policy in the past had been to discourage Iraq from asking for arms and said it would submit its views in a separate telegram on whether it thought the United States should make an internal political decision to establish Iraq's eligibility to receive arms under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program. (787.56/4-1952)