

No. 1379

787.5 MSP/5-552

*Memorandum of Conversation, Prepared in the Embassy in Iraq*¹

SECRET

BAGHDAD, May 2, 1952.

Subject: Provision of Military Assistance to Iraq Under Section 408e of the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949, as Amended

Participants: Brigadier Arthur Boyce, British Military Attaché
Mr. Tom Bromley, First Secretary and Acting
Counselor of the British Embassy
Mr. Morgan Man, Oriental Counselor of the British
Embassy²
Mr. John D. Jernegan, Visiting US Consul General
from Tunis shortly to return to a Departmental
post
Mr. Phillip W. Ireland, Counselor of the US Embassy
Mr. John R. Barrow, Second Secretary of the US
Embassy
Capt. Wilbur C. Eveland, Acting Army Attaché of the
US Embassy

The meeting was held as a result of a suggestion made by the American Ambassador to the British Ambassador.

Mr. Ireland opened the meeting by observing that hitherto the US Government had turned back Iraqi requests for US military assistance on grounds that Iraq should seek aid from the UK under the provisions of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty of 1930.

It must be obvious to all, however, that times were changing and some thought had been given both in the Embassy and at the working level in the Department to the possible provision of limited US cash reimbursable and/or procurement assistance under the terms of Section 408e(1)(c) of the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949 as amended. Whereas we had been able to explain our military assistance to Saudi Arabia on grounds of our large interests there and Saudi cooperation on the Dhahran airbase, added impetus had been given considering a program in Iraq by the projected conclusion of 408e agreements with Syria and with Egypt which, if

¹ This memorandum of conversation was transmitted to the Department of State as an enclosure to a letter by Ambassador Crocker to G. Lewis Jones, dated May 5. Crocker said he had come to agree with the concept of limited assistance to make up current Iraqi military deficiencies. (787.5 MSP/5-552)

² Man was appointed Head of the American Department of the British Foreign Office in May 1954.