

cannot furnish a definitive reply to the questions raised by the British Chiefs of Staff.

For the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff:
W. G. LALOR
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Secretary

No. 1381

787.5 MSP/8-1352

*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Ambassador in Iraq (Berry)*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

[BAGHDAD,] August 12, 1952.

Participants: Dr. Fadhil Jamali, Iraqi Foreign Minister
Mr. Burton Y. Berry, American Ambassador

I called formally at 10 o'clock this morning upon Foreign Minister Jamali in accordance with protocol requirements for newly arrived Chiefs of Mission. After the exchange of the usual amenities the Minister said that he would like to express two hopes that regards our future relationship, (1) that we could swiftly pass over the official and formal phase and develop a personal and friendly approach to our work so that he would feel free to telephone me day or night, arrange for a meeting, and then talk out quite frankly what was on his mind, and that I can on my part deal with him in the same informal manner, and (2) that on those occasions when he would "blow his top" that I would bear with him recalling that underneath a sometimes turbulent exterior there is a warm heart and a desire to act justly. The Minister explained that he was not a career diplomat and therefore had not learned to control his feelings at all times, particularly on matters where he had worked hard and another party seemed to take an unreasonable position.

The Minister said that he hoped that the relations between Iraq and America would develop constructively and rapidly, particularly in two fields, that of defense and economic development. He said that he felt that in the past America had neglected Iraq and fa-

¹ The source text is an enclosure to a letter from Berry to Parker T. Hart, informing him that the conversation under reference here was Berry's first with Jamali. Berry informed Hart he hoped the United States would agree to make Iraq eligible for reimbursable military assistance if the Foreign Minister should request it. In an answer, dated Aug. 21, Hart informed Berry that Byroade wanted to attack the whole program of military aid to the Middle East states because he did not favor the piecemeal process of declaring eligibility for individual states. In the meantime, the Department of State had presented a strong recommendation to the Department of Defense requesting its support for reimbursable military aid for Iraq. (787.5 MSP/8-1352)