

fenses, US offering IG opportunity augment arms sources and speed reorganization armed forces". Does Emb concur?

3. Coordinating machinery not yet established but assumed US supply authorities might consult Brit Mil Mission Wash after prelim coordination US-UK service atts Baghdad. Iraqi arms requests wld be submitted thru MA and Emb to State and Defense. Defense wld answer with price and delivery data if equipment available, and order wld be considered firm upon IG deposit of dollar check.

BRUCE

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No. 1386

787.00/10-2452: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Iraq (Berry) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

CONFIDENTIAL

BAGHDAD, October 24, 1952—noon.

530. Section two of two.<sup>2</sup> From ME affairs conversation turned to Iraqi affairs. He asked my impressions of Iraq and I told him I thought it was a country on threshold of great possibilities but to realize such required a govt in which people had confidence and wld assure them of the quiet and stability needed to realize planned developments. He agreed adding "we are just awaiting the Regent's return to solve these problems. I can bring into national govt honest men with technical capabilities who will give confidence to the people and assure stability." I said that from reading the Baghdad press I wondered if that wld be so easily accomplished as strong words daily were being printed expressing dissatisfaction. He dismissed Baghdad press lightly saying it had no importance. And when I suggested that students and lawyers generally were also very outspoken in their criticisms he said these groups cld easily be managed by a strong govt. As an illus he told of his experience with recent IPC agreement.<sup>3</sup> He said every one shouted

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Ankara, Tehran, Karachi, Damascus, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Jidda, Tel Aviv, and London.

<sup>2</sup> Section one not printed; it reported the first part of a conversation the previous night between the Ambassador and Nuri Said. According to Nuri, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf had always been the two critical areas of the Middle East. He considered the Eastern Mediterranean a secure area because the United States had buttressed its nerve center, Turkey, with financial and military support since 1947. The withdrawal of Britain from the Indian subcontinent, however, had created a power vacuum in the Persian Gulf, which was directly responsible for the critical situation in the Middle East, with Iran the current focal center. (787.00/10-2452)

<sup>3</sup> For documentation on the IPC agreement, see Documenta 242 ff.