

discussed early this year and Her Majesty's Government now expect to be able to supply the requirements of Iraq fairly completely with the exception of certain items of which there is a general shortage among North Atlantic Treaty Organization states and which it is therefore assumed the United States would hardly wish to supply.

3. The United States Government will understand that Her Majesty's Government is for these reasons most anxious that supplies provided under this act should be kept within very narrow limits.

4. Her Majesty's Government would accordingly welcome early information of any Iraqi applications and would appreciate the opportunity to express their view on these before a decision is taken, and if possible, before submission to the Near East Arms Coordinating Committee.

WASHINGTON, 7th November 1952.

No. 1388

780.5/3-2253: Telegram

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

CONFIDENTIAL

BAGHDAD, March 22, 1953—11 a. m.

1158. Foreign Minister Tawfiq Al-Suwaidi asked me to call this morning. He said that recent conversations with Turkish Chargé (mytels 1053, 1107 and 1118²) had made Iraqis realize how very vulnerable their country was to a Soviet attack coming through Persia. Foreign Minister had discussed this situation with Cabinet with result Cabinet had decided to improve Iraqi defense as rapidly and completely as means permitted.

Currently Iraq had no external military responsibilities except those specified in Arab League treaty of mutual defense, the military clauses of which have not yet been implemented. Thus, until such time as these, and arrangements of mutual defense by Western powers, are completed Iraq is bound to supply its army with the means to meet situation. Therefore Iraq desired to commence forthwith in building up its army. Foreign Minister then outlined importance to Western world of Iraq both from viewpoint of resources and strategy and asked that US, with British, assess Iraqi needs to meet its obligations in defense of its own territory and Western world. Foreign Minister said that he would send Embassy

¹ Repeated to Ankara and Cairo.

² None printed. Telegrams 1053, Feb. 27; 1107, Mar. 10; and 1118, Mar. 12 are in Department of State file 780.5.