

Great Britain, has already effected in its defenses and hopes that this useful cooperation will continue. The United States Government on its part is prepared to assist the defense efforts of the Iraq Government as it had indicated by its note dated October 27, 1952 (408(e)).³

The United States Congress now has before it for consideration a proposal that Mutual Security legislation for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 1953, should include authority to provide grant military assistance to Greece, Turkey and Iran and to "other countries in the area of the Near East and Africa". As the Government of Iraq is no doubt aware, the Congress of the United States in authorizing Mutual Security Programs in the past has emphasized its purpose "to strengthen the mutual security and individual and collective defenses of the free world," and has sought to encourage the development of cooperative defense arrangements on the part of the nations of the free world.

The United States Government regrets that it is not possible at this time to give a definite reply to the request of the Government of Iraq for arms and training assistance for the purpose of strengthening the Iraqi defense forces. The Government of Iraq may be assured, however, that its request is receiving careful consideration and it is hoped that mutually satisfactory arrangements can be reached at an early date.

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³ Not printed.

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*The Department of State to the British Embassy*¹

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WASHINGTON, July 1, 1953.

The United States Government is in substantial agreement with the views set forth by the British Government in a note dated April 22, 1953,² relating to the desire of the Government of Iraq to strengthen its military forces for defense against aggression.

¹ This note was drafted by Funkhouser and Dasplit between June 20 and June 25. It was cleared by NEA, S/MSA, BNA, G, and EUR.

² On Apr. 22, Beeley delivered the note under reference here to John D. Jernegan. The British note stated that Her Majesty's Government welcomed the Iraqi request for U.S. military aid insofar as it indicated an increased realization by Iraq of a need to strengthen its forces and increase its contribution to the defense of the

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