

established, so that blame will not be shifted to United States. Also believe that to realize maximum political benefit for United States, offshore procurement should be confined minimum consistent with logistical necessity.

(d) Believe for logistical reasons, United States equipment should, in so far as possible, be interchangeable with British types. Where not interchangeable in efficient ammunition, spare parts and replacements should be furnished to provide full logistical support.

(e) Agree United States training mission might unduly complicate British problems. Believe, however, establishment MAAG group to ensure United States equipment combat serviceable and to instruct Iraqis in use and maintenance of equipment essential. Fully agree Iraqi candidates should train in United States military schools and further believe provision should be made for periodic United States visits by high ranking officers of Iraq General Staff. Prime Minister has expressed considerable interest on latter, and has mentioned to me possibility early views by Iraq CGS.

Embassy assumes that before any public announcement of allocation military assistance is made, it will first have opportunity furnish Iraqi Government with full details and to present agreement.

BERRY

No. 1400

780.5/1-554: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Iraq*¹

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON January 5, 1954—7:29 p. m.

374. Department appreciates your concern lest Iraqis gain impression we stimulating development regional security arrangement in which we expect include them, but concerning which we are not consulting them (Embtel 386²). On other hand, Department convinced US should stay as far in background of negotiations as possible, and that initiative should appear come from Pakistanis, as in fact it has in considerable measure, and Turks. Approach Turks (Deptel 361³) was made in greatest confidence in effort develop appropriate context for extension military assistance

¹ Drafted by Daspit and cleared by NE and S/MSA.

² Dated Jan. 3, not printed. The Ambassador requested permission to inform the Prime Minister of the negotiations between Pakistan and Turkey, making it clear that, although the United States had stimulated the negotiations, it hoped for an indigenous solution to Middle East defense problems and was taking no part in them. (787.5 MSP/1-354)

³ Printed as telegram 686 to Ankara, Document 164.