

which can improve political stability, internal security, and the maintenance of pro-Western regimes, and ultimately contribute to area defense. We should select certain key states for this type of assistance, choosing those who are most keenly aware of the threat of Soviet Russia and who are geographically located to stand in the way of possible Soviet aggression. In this regard, special consideration should be given to Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Pakistan."

The provision of military assistance to Iraq may also have significance in relation to the development of a regional defense arrangement in the Middle East. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have recently expressed an interest in the possible development of such an arrangement, to include Pakistan, Turkey, Iran and Iraq. The extension of military assistance to Iraq could be expected to contribute to the willingness of that country to participate in such an arrangement.

On the basis of the above considerations, I request that you seek from the President a determination that Iraq meets the standards prescribed in sub-section 202(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1951, as amended.

Sincerely yours,

WALTER B. SMITH

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No. 1403

780.5/1-2954

*Memorandum by the Director of the Foreign Operations  
Administration (Stassen) to the President*<sup>1</sup>

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, January 22, 1954.

Subject: Grant Military Assistance for Iraq

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<sup>1</sup> The source text was attached to a letter from Stassen to the Secretary of State, dated Jan. 29, notifying him that the President agreed Iraq should receive military assistance. Also attached to the letter was a copy of a memorandum by the President to the Director of the Foreign Operations Administration, dated Jan. 26. The memorandum informed Stassen that the President found Iraq of direct importance to the defense of the Near East area. Since the increased ability of Iraq to defend itself was important to the security of the United States, the President had found it essential for the purpose of the Mutual Security Act of 1951, as amended, that the Government of Iraq be provided with military assistance according to the provisions of the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949, as amended. The Secretaries of State and Defense and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget were to be notified by the Director of the Foreign Operations Administration of the Presidential determination. (780.5/1-2954)