

No. 1404

Editorial Note

Telegram 438 to Baghdad, February 18, transmitted the text of the Mutual Defense Assistance Program Agreement to be submitted to the Government of Iraq. Telegram 440, February 18, contained the Department of State's comments on the text and the legal reasons behind the writing of some sections. Telegram 441, February 18, instructed the Ambassador on the method of presentation of the agreement. He was authorized to inform the Government of Iraq that the United States had discussed the matter with the Government of the United Kingdom. The United States considered its aid complementary to that of the United Kingdom, which would continue to be the prime supplier of arms and training assistance to Iraq. Documentation is in Department of State file 787.5 MSP.

No. 1405

787.5 MSP/2-2354: Telegram

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

SECRET

BAGHDAD, February 23, 1954—10 a. m.

472. At five last evening I met Prime Minister quietly to discuss tactics of formal presentation of United States reply to Iraqi request for grant military aid. ¹ At ten last evening I met with King, Crown Prince, and Prime Minister to continue discussions. I explained to them that as provisions in text of agreement related to statutory requirements or procedures which experience had shown to be essential to good administration, I saw no point in quibbling over the language in our reply to their request. After two hours of discussion they accepted this point of view.

In this connection Prime Minister today will consult legal advisor as whether Iraqi reply to our note must be presented Parliament. All hope it will not be necessary. Then he will consult principal political leaders privately so that they will be informed and he will have their support. Then he will advise me as when I should formally hand note to Foreign Minister. Please see next following telegrams. ²

¹ Regarding the Iraqi request for military aid, see footnote 3, Document 1388.

² Telegram 473, Feb. 23, transmitted a summary of the internal political situation in Iraq. (787.00/2-2354)