

April 28 we will have but one stenographer in entire Embassy due to attrition and earned home leaves. This situation prevails in spite of our continuous efforts to prevent it. I hope Department will take necessary measures that my successor does not face in his work the same conditions under which I am laboring.

BERRY

No. 1409

781.5 MSP/4-854: Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY WASHINGTON, April 8, 1954—7:32 p. m.

566. We have become increasingly concerned at timorous attitude of Iraqi Government over proposed military aid agreement. This concern greatly accentuated by Arab League communiqué issued April 1 at Cairo, reading in part as follows:

"The first question examined by the Committee concerned the rumors recently circulated on the possible adherence of one of the Arab States to the Turko-Pakistan alliance and concerning the early conclusion of a Military Aid Agreement between certain Arab States on the one hand and the United States of America on the other.

"All the representatives of the Arab States on the Committee proclaimed these rumors are false and have no foundation in truth. As to the Turko-Pakistan alliance, the Iraqi representative affirmed in the name of his Government what the President of the Iraqi Council of Ministers had proclaimed, namely that Iraq has not been invited to join this alliance, that it has not considered joining and that everything which has been said concerning the connection of Iraq with this alliance is without foundation."

It seems to us that if the Iraqis are so unwilling to stand up and be counted on side of free world that at this late stage in negotiations they subscribe to statements such as foregoing, we should reflect very carefully before concluding agreement. If Iraqi leaders are justified in their fears of public reaction and repercussions in other Arab States, agreement may well cause difficulties out of proportion to benefits. We do not wish repetition of events that followed signing of Treaty of Portsmouth. If leaders apprehensions are unjustified would seem that Government lacks requisite cour-

¹ Drafted by Jernegan and cleared by Byroade for the Secretary and Under Secretary of State. Repeated to Karachi, Ankara, Tel Aviv, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jidda, London, and Paris.