

would make some public statement at least endorsing pact in principle and indicating intention to use any military assistance received in interests of collective regional defense within that context.

It seems to us that endorsement of pact is if anything a less difficult step for Iraq Government than would be signature of military aid agreement. Since all principal Iraqi leaders have assured us they want to join pact in due course, we think they should be willing to show their good faith and good intentions publicly if only as evidence that they will not allow Arab League or other pressures to divert them from policies envisaged in our military aid programs.

We could not of course go along with Nuri's apparent desire to convert pact into outright military alliance made operable merely by an attack by one Near Eastern State on another. We assume this is only a bargaining position on his part. End FYI.

DULLES

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No. 1410

187.5 MSP/4-1154: Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Iraq*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET PRIORITY WASHINGTON, April 15, 1954—2:45 p. m.

577. For Ambassador. Your tel 611<sup>2</sup> is being given fullest consideration. Regret inform you, however, we believe it will be necessary postpone or stall on negotiations, thus leaving them at their present point, until matter has been considered by NSC. Under present conditions, this may take some time.

Deptel 566<sup>3</sup> was drafted to give you best presentation we could conceive for sounding out Iraqi intentions without mentioning our most basic concern. Since time of Secretary's trip through area and NSC decision on policy of assisting militarily states such as Iraq, Arab-Israeli situation has grown increasingly more dangerous. If Iraq could see her way clear to join Turkey-Pakistan pact we would have good public case for providing her with military equipment. If on other hand she is publicly on record as opposing such a move, and we have no commitment whatsoever that she intends to make move, answer to critics in this country who see Iraq associated only with Arab states and their rash statements regarding use

<sup>1</sup> Drafted by Byroade and cleared in draft by Smith.

<sup>2</sup> Not printed, but see footnote 3, *supra*.

<sup>3</sup> *Supra*.