

of force against Israel is far less convincing. Also in Iraq's own interests it is important that best possible justification exist here for extending military assistance as this bound to affect in Congress our ability to follow through in worthwhile manner. We must try at all costs avoid situation where at each appropriation hearing the wisdom of our decision would be questioned with resultant doubt as to our ability to obtain funds or danger of having them extremely limited.

Believe, although your views on effect of delay appreciated, best tactic is for you, in your discretion, either to stall or to inform Iraqis you are under instructions to suspend negotiations temporarily. In either case, in response to their queries you might tell them you do not know the reasons for delay but that you assume Washington may be in the midst of fundamental review entire matter. You could then use some or all of points contained in Deptel 566 as your speculation of what might be under review. If Iraq is really serious about going ahead this procedure might evoke a response from her which would be helpful in NSC consideration.

Deeply regret our inability to meet your recommendations on this important matter near close of your many years of fine service. Our hope is that we will still succeed and in manner which will in long run be to mutual benefit of both Iraq and our own country. On other hand, we feel position you have established in Iraq will help you to obtain better setting for decision, if that is possible at all, and know you will do your utmost prior your departure.

SMITH

 No. 1411

787.5 MSP/4-1654: Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY

BAGHDAD, April 16, 1954—7 p. m.

621. For Byroade from Berry. With heavy heart I finished reading Deptel 577 of April 15.¹ Somehow the Embassy has failed to convince the Department how important the US-Iraq bilateral military aid agreement is for obtaining our national objectives in the ME.

As I see the picture the agreement is the foundation stone of a structure we are building in the ME that is capable of halting the advance of communism. By it Iraq becomes the first Arab state to

¹ *Supra.*