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Memorandum of Conversation, by the Officer in Charge of Arabian Peninsula-Iraq Affairs (Fritzlan)

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] October 11, 1954.

Participants: Dr. Moussa Al-Shabandar, Iraqi Ambassador
The Secretary
NE—Mr. Fritzlan

The Ambassador called to say good-bye to the Secretary before his departure on October 14 to take up his post as Iraqi Foreign Minister. He expressed his appreciation for the friendly reception he had received here and said we could count upon him to continue the Iraqi Government's policy of friendship for the United States and the West. Mr. Dulles expressed pleasure that the Ambassador was about to assume the post of Foreign Minister and said he looked forward to continuation of cordial relations.

The Secretary alluded to the "northern tier" regional defense arrangement and said we hoped Iraq would take steps in the near future to associate herself to the Turkish-Pakistan pact which we believed could develop into an effective defense arrangement. Dr. Shabandar said he personally strongly favored Iraqi adherence to the pact and believed the Government felt likewise. However, opposition had developed from other Arab states, especially Egypt, primarily on the question of timing. Nevertheless, he believed Iraq should and would proceed alone if necessary to join in efforts to achieve an effective "northern tier" defense plan. He stated, however, that it was often difficult to move as fast as the Government would like because of the question of Israel and our support for this state.

The Secretary said he was not asking Iraq to make public declarations of solidarity with the United States. The question of Iraq's foreign policy was a matter for Iraq itself to decide. However, he should know that we had a great deal of confidence in the "northern tier" plan and felt Iraq's interests would be suited better by joining such an arrangement than by campaigning for federation among Arab states. He mentioned his conversation in July on this subject with Dr. Jamali and reiterated his feeling that Iraq should adhere to the Turkish-Pakistan pact before directing its attention toward federation with Syria or other Arab states. The Secretary added that our military assistance to Iraq was based largely upon the belief that Iraq would adhere to the pact. ;