

On the matter of Israel, the Secretary said he felt he should repeat what he had told Mr. Eban, i.e., that the United States had no intention of assuming an unfriendly attitude toward the Arab states in order to become ingratiated with Israel. Likewise, he said, the United States had no intention of being unfriendly toward Israel in order to please the Arab states. A policy of fair impartiality had been instituted when he became Secretary of State and it was our intention to continue this policy even at the expense of losing votes in political elections.

The Ambassador expressed satisfaction over the Secretary's remarks.

In conclusion Dr. Shabandar raised several questions regarding the military assistance program and asked that we do everything possible to expedite the initial shipments. This would strengthen the Government's hand in foreign policy matters as well as in dealing with internal subversive activities. He was informed that our MAAG had arrived in Baghdad approximately a month ago and the Department understood that sizeable shipments of equipment are expected to be made shortly and should arrive in Iraq before the end of the year.

No. 1421

789.5/11-254: Telegram

*The Chargé in Iraq (Ireland) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

BAGHDAD, November 2, 1954—11 a. m.

273. Although Embassy has had no opportunity to discuss in detail with Prime Minister current status GI's regional defense thinking, Department's attention is invited to summarized minutes of Ankara talks obtained from Nuri and reported in Embtel 276.² Nuri's reported approach to Menderes placing primary emphasis on alleged Israeli threat (Ankara telegram 441³) need not be taken overly seriously for Prime Minister adept any tailoring his argument to fit listener on hand. In Embassy's view reported statement is out of keeping with what we know to be Nuri's actual thinking on this score. Although he has stated in past that 95 percent of Iraqi public see Israel as principal menace and only 9 percent understand true nature Soviet danger, we believe Nuri belongs to

¹ Repeated to Ankara, Cairo, Karachi, Tehran, London, Paris, Damascus, Jidda, Beirut, and Amman.

² *Infra*.

³ Document 233.