

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



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June 28, 1955

TOP SECRET

Dear Mr. Dulles:

As you may know, a joint State-Defense working group has recently made a study of the Middle East defense question. The results of this study are embodied in the attached document, which Mr. Hoover has asked me to make available to you. Mr. Hoover asked that I emphasize that the study has not received approval at the policy level in either Defense or State. It is, however, under continuing consideration in both Departments and is being used, informally, as a basis for inter-Departmental discussion.

It is also being used as background for the American representatives in informal, secret, political talks with [redacted] on the subject of Middle East defense, which began on June 23. Copies of the minutes of these discussions will be furnished your Agency as they are prepared.

Knowledge of the working group's study and the talks with [redacted] is being kept very strictly on a need-to-know basis, not only because of the highly classified character of much of the information, but also because of the highly unfortunate political repercussions which might occur in the Middle East if it became known that the United States and [redacted] were considering these matters together. I should add that the existence of the working group study is not even known to [redacted]

We should be very glad to have any informal comments you or your staff may care to make on this document.

Sincerely yours,

State Department review completed

John D. Jernegan
John D. Jernegan
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Near Eastern, South Asian
and African Affairs

Attachment:
Memorandum

The Honorable
Allen W. Dulles,

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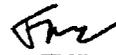
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MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DULLES

The position study referred to has been sent to DD/P for preparation of reply for your signature containing CIA comment.


FMC

1 July 55
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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