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DATE July 19, 1954

COPY NO.

# OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

## Washington, D.C.

PROGRESS REPORT ON NSC 155/1 (NOW 5428)

U.S. OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

WITH RESPECT TO THE NEAR EAST

**REFERENCE:** Memo from Executive Secretary,  
NSC, dated May 12, 1954.

**OCB FILE NO.** 58

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**WARNING**

*This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States, within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, U.S.C., the transmission or revelations of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.*

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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD  
Washington 25, D. C.

September 29, 1954

MEMORANDUM TO THE OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

SUBJECT: Progress Report on NSC 155/1 (now NSC 5428)  
(Near East)

The attached Operations Coordinating Board Progress Report on NSC 155/1, "U. S. Objectives and Policies with Respect to the Near East," dated July 29, 1954, was noted and discussed by the National Security Council on September 2, 1954, Action No. 1211.

The previous draft of this report dated July 16, 1954 and amendments transmitted by memorandum dated July 26, 1954, are obsolete and may be destroyed in accordance with the security regulations of your agency.



Elmer B. Staats  
Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. Memo to the Executive Secretary, NSC, from the Executive Officer, OCB, dated July 30, 1954.
2. Progress Report on NSC 155/1 (Near East) dated July 29, 1954.

OCB File No. 58

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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD  
Washington 25, D. C.

July 30, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]  
Executive Secretary  
National Security Council

SUBJECT: Progress Report on NSC 155/1 (Near East).

REFERENCE: Memorandum from the Executive Secretary, NSC, dated  
May 12, 1954.

On July 11, 1953 the President approved NSC 155/1, "U. S. Objectives and Policies With Respect to the Near East". The Operations Coordinating Board was designated as the coordinating agency on May 12, 1954.

Attached hereto is the first progress report by the Operations Coordinating Board on the implementation of NSC 155/1 covering the period July 11, 1953 through June 30, 1954. The report was approved by the Operations Coordinating Board on July 28, 1954.

It is noted that on July 22 the National Security Council recommended certain amendments and supplements to NSC 155/1 which have subsequently been approved by the President. The amended paper has been circulated as NSC 5428 and assigned to the Operations Coordinating Board. Subsequent progress reports will therefore be concerned with the implementation of NSC 5428.

[REDACTED]  
Acting Executive Officer

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Attachment:

Progress Report on NSC 155/1  
(Near East), dated 7/29/54

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July 29, 1954

PROGRESS REPORT ON NSC 155/1  
UNITED STATES OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES  
WITH RESPECT TO THE NEAR EAST

(Policy approved by the President July 11, 1953)

A. SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIONS

Major factors limiting the ability of the U.S. to carry out the courses of action specified were the deterioration of the Arab-Israel situation, and the difficulties encountered by the UN in dealing with the problem; lack of progress in resolving disputes between the Arab states and the U.K. and France; and the growing activity of the USSR. Major accomplishments include the Turkish-Pakistan Pact, the military assistance agreement with Iraq, implementation of the U.S. policy of impartiality between the Arab states and Israel, and progress toward securing acceptance of a unified plan for the development of the Jordan River system.

The conclusion of grant military aid agreements with Iraq and Pakistan, as well as U.S. support of the Turkey-Pakistan Mutual Assistance Pact, have been initial contributions to the development of a politico-military climate favorable to the eventual development of a regional defense organization including Western and Middle East powers. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have agreed on objectives for the defense of the Middle East and subsequently have proposed to the British Chief of Staff that it would be profitable at this time to make military planning studies for the defense of the Middle East with the U.K. and Turkey. The Military Services of the United States and the United Kingdom have coordinated their operating requirements in Egypt, Aden and Jordan.

USIA operates in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. Budget and strategic considerations have decided against the operation of programs in the other countries.

B. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

In the light of operating experience, these policies in general remain valid; but a draft supplement has been submitted by the Department of State to the NSC treating in greater detail the Arab-Israel problem.

C. EMERGING PROBLEMS AND FUTURE ACTIONS

Two major emerging problems which either singly or in combination demand firmer and more decisive measures to control the situation are: (1) increased USSR activity in the area, and particularly Soviet support of the Arab position versus Israel; and (2) growing Arab-Israel tensions carrying with them real danger of an outbreak of open fighting. Special attention may also be necessary to the Anglo-Egyptian dispute over the Suez Base, and the general deteriora-



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