



The Iranian note in reply to this initial Soviet Union attack on her adherence to the Pact was polite but firm. The Bagdad Pact, it stated, was concluded with due regard for the principles of the United Nations, and Iran's accession to it had no object but self-defence. As for Mr. Molotov's reference to restoration of colonialism in the Middle East, the note pointed out that anti-colonialism was a cardinal feature of Iran's foreign policy. Her adherence to the Pact, it continued, need not mar her "friendly relations and good neighbourliness" with the Soviet Union, and did not conflict in any way with the terms of existing agreements between the two powers.

The Soviet Union since has made several further protests against Iran's adherence to the alliance, and the Iranian replies have continued to emphasize the peaceful aims of the Pact.

The accession of Pakistan had brought into operation the article in the Pact under which a Council at Ministerial level was to be established when at least four powers had joined. The inaugural meeting of the Council was held in Baghdad on November 21 and 22, 1955, under the chairmanship of Nuri el Said. Iran, Pakistan and Turkey were represented by their Prime Ministers, and the United Kingdom by her Foreign Secretary, Mr. Harold Macmillan.