

declared their interest in the continued political independence and territorial integrity of Iran and they have recently confirmed their attitude in separate statements by official spokesmen.

5. In such a confused picture we are inclined to feel that ad hoc arrangements for the defence of the Middle East could be based more effectively on the foundations which have already been laid than on an altogether new arrangement such as an extension of NATO responsibilities in the area. Such arrangements could be considered in the following order:

(a) That the decision already arrived at by NATO to associate the Turkish and Greek Governments with the military planning of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization be, in fact, implemented. The insistence, particularly of the Turks, on being associated with NATO might spring mainly from the fact that those arrangements, according to paragraph 3 of your telegram under reference have not been given a fair trial. It is natural for the Turks to underestimate the value of such an association if no effort had been made to make it work.

(b) That the United States consider the possibility of making a fairly strongly worded declaration of its interests in the continued political independence and territorial integrity of Turkey, which would leave no room for speculation on the part of Moscow.

(c) That the governments of the United States and United Kingdom should continue the efforts they are now making to compose the differences which have become apparent in the views of their military leaders in the Eastern Mediterranean area, so as to present as quickly as possible a common front in their dealings with governments of the countries concerned. It would be particularly useful if they could reach a decision as to which of the great powers is to assume military leadership and the primary responsibility for military defence of the area. So long as governments of the Middle East are not sure that the United States and the United Kingdom, the two great powers most directly concerned, see eye to eye on this question, the impression of rivalry and uncertainty is bound to delay preparations for effective resistance to a possible Soviet attack. It would be reasonable to expect that at some stage, preferably when the United States and the United Kingdom have found a basis for composing their differences, France should be brought into the discussions with a view to participation in defensive planning.

(d) That the three great powers which have direct interests in the Middle East should discuss among themselves the possibility of a tripartite declaration on the defence of a more extended area than that to which the declaration of May 25, 1950 applied.

6. We do not wish to convey the impression that, were it so decided after careful consideration in Washington, we would be unwilling to consider the applications of Greece and Turkey for acceptance in NATO. We would then probably take the line that if the United Kingdom, the United States and France, and other NATO powers, are in agreement in favouring the admission of Turkey and Greece, Canada would not oppose it. We do hope, however, that serious consideration will be given to possible alternative courses of action such as those listed above, since we consider