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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

26 June 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Proposed NIE on Conditions and Trends in the Middle East Affecting US Security

1. The last over-all estimate on the Middle East was NIE-26, dated 25 April 1951 and entitled: Key Problems Affecting US Efforts to Strengthen the Near East. NIE-26 addressed itself primarily to factors bearing on the development of the military strength of the area, with only limited coverage of other factors affecting US security. It did not examine the problems raised for the US as a result of association with the UK and France in the area.

2. Moreover, since April 1951 developments in the Middle East have been sufficiently important to require a re-examination of US security interests in the area:

- a. The Anglo-Iranian oil dispute remains unsolved, and political and economic stability in Iran has decreased.
- b. The Anglo-Egyptian dispute has delayed plans for establishment of a Middle East defense organization and remains a potentially serious threat to US interests in the area.
- c. Anti-Western feeling, as well as political and economic instability have, if anything, increased throughout the Middle East.

3. Finally, there exists no up-to-date comprehensive estimate on the Middle East which contains adequate intelligence guidance for the formulation of long-range US policy in the area.

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4. The deficiencies listed above can best be remedied by a long-range estimate which, rather than attempting to predict the outcome of specific current issues, identifies the major forces and trends in the area, assesses their origin, relative strength and probable development, and estimates their impact on the achievement of long-range US policy objectives.

5. This subject was included in the "Program of Estimates for Remainder of 1952," dated 5 May 1952, paragraph 2e, on which the Board consulted with the IAC representatives.

6. The members of the IAC are accordingly requested, to approve, by telephonic notice prior to the close of business on Tuesday, 1 July, the initiation of the following estimate:

NIE-73: CONDITIONS AND TRENDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
AFFECTING US SECURITY

Priority: Routine

Target date: 1 October 1952.

7. Subject to the concurrence by the IAC in this estimate, your representatives are requested to meet with us on Thursday, 3 July, at 10:00, in Room 146 South Building, to review the attached terms of reference.

Paul A. Borel
PAUL A. BOREL
Executive Secretary

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