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1. TURKS REPORT IRAN ACCEPTS PRINCIPLE OF
ADHERENCE TO TURKISH-IRAQI PACT

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[REDACTED] Turkish acting foreign minister Zorlu told Ambassador Chapin in Tehran on 24 September that Iran has decided in principle to adhere to the Turkish-Iraqi-British-Pakistani pact. The Turks are urging the Iranians to join within the next month.

Zorlu said that the Shah and Prime Minister Ala have been persuaded to give up their demands for American guarantees and additional aid to Iran. What is now needed to justify Iranian adherence to the pact, according to Zorlu, is a general statement by the US government of its interest in Iran's independence and in Middle East defense.

Comment

During their week-long visit to Tehran, Turkish president Bayar and Zorlu probably convinced the Shah that Iran would be a welcome and equal partner in the pact. The joint communiqué issued on 26 September at the end of the visit, however, gave no indication that Iran was planning to join the pact soon. It seems likely the Shah would continue to maintain that in order to influence Iranian public opinion he would need more American aid.

A decision by the Shah in favor of Iranian adherence to the pact would still face a fight in parliament, where there is considerable neutralist sentiment.

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