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Iraq - 1959-61

23 May 1959

Fawzi, Mahmoud (Foreign Minister of U.A.R.)
Cairo,

- 1 letter from D.H.

23 May 1959

PERSONAL

Dear Mahmud,

I think I should inform you that I have approached Jawad offering him a meeting when I come to Europe late in June or early in July. The immediate excuse for this step is that we send a high-ranking Technical Assistance official to Baghdad for talks about the programme, but the background is, of course, the one I mentioned to you in Lausanne. In line with my argument, when I discussed this with you, I have made the offer in such a form that Jawad can equally well take it or leave it.

Were I to go to Baghdad I would, as a matter of course, wish to drop in to see President Nasser and you on the same trip. If destiny is a little bit kind to us, this constellation of contacts may be turned to very good use. In preparation of such a development, the desirability - not to say the necessity - of which seems obvious to me, I would hope that we could have a de facto truce between Cairo and Baghdad and be able to escape, at least, personal attacks which always leave wounds that are very slow in healing. After all, the end result must be that the main Arab countries live together in at least mutual tolerance, and any delay in the achievement of that state of affairs is equally costly to all. In this case a delay is of course combined with the risk that countries may find themselves firmly entrenched in opposite ideological camps before a change in relations has had time to mature.

His Excellency
Dr. Mahmud Fawzi,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
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Cairo, Egypt.

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