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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1 December 1954



MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SUBJECT: Austrian Treaty - Activities of Mendes-France

Mendes-France has been active in trying to obtain the consent of the U. S. and the U. K. to his making a demarche' to the Soviets as a follow-up to his suggestion in his speech before the U. N. that the Soviets be given a period of two years to withdraw their troops from Austria. Considerable concern has been aroused by certain evidence that the French have not been entirely straightforward in their dealings with the British and ourselves on this matter. There is evidence that they may have misrepresented our position to the British as being in complete agreement to such a demarche' whereas, in reality, we placed many qualifications on the Mendes-France proposal.

The British have taken a strong position against any move by Mendes-France and as the matter now stands the U. S. and the U. K. will advise Mendes-France that they will not agree to any unilateral action on his part but believe that if the Soviets are interested they can find plenty of opportunities to answer the proposals in his U. N. speech.

There have been conferences between the Secretary and the British Ambassador here and much personal traffic between Dillon, Aldrich and the Secretary on this matter and it may, therefore, come up for discussion at the luncheon today.

*RM*

Robert H. Thayer

*OCB 091 Austria (12-1-54)*

*[Handwritten signature]*  
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