A BREAK IN ARAB NEUTRALITY
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whole concept of the "northern tier," has long been favored by Secretary Dulles, and was, in fact, the basic consideration in extending American military aid to Iraq. The British favored a wider Middle Eastern defense structure, including both Arab and Western countries, but they welcome the new alliance as a step which will increase the security and stability of that region. The pact does introduce one complication in that it excludes Israel. But inasmuch as the new alliance pledges its partners to comply with the principles of the United Nations Charter and to eschew all aggression, it should increase rather than diminish the safety of Israel.

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The construction of a "northern tier" for the Middle Eastern defense structure has taken a long spurt forward as a result of the decision by Turkey and Iraq to conclude a mutual defense alliance against aggression and to call on other Middle Eastern states to join this undertaking. The decision was reached during a visit to Iraq by Turkish Premier Menderes, who will now visit Syria and Lebanon and is expected to visit Egypt later. Turkey is already allied with Pakistan, and efforts will now be redoubled to close the gap in the "tier" by bringing into the new alliance system Iran, and possibly Afghanistan. As Turkey is also a member of the North Atlantic alliance and the Balkan alliance, it would form the link between the Western and Middle Eastern defense structures, which, in turn, would have an Asian link with the Southeast Asian defense system through Pakistan.

Many more steps will have to be taken before that elaborate structure is completed, and much will depend upon Egypt, which considers itself both the leader of the Arab world and the champion of an all-Arab defense system tied to neither the Communist bloc nor the West. But Iraq's alliance with Turkey marks the first break in Arab "neutrality," which may persuade others to follow suit. It is significant that this break was first made by an Arab country which was compelled to take stringent measures against Communist infiltration and subversion.

The Turkish-Iraqi pact, like the

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