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EASTERN DEPARTMENT

GENERAL

E 103145/1

FROM *Henrike-Rapp*
Amman.

SUBJECT: *Leban Agreement*

CONFIDENTIAL
 No. 825
 Dated August 4.
 Received August 6.

Concern at reports that the U.S. Ambassador in Damascus had offered to mediate to restore union between Syria and the U.A.R. Details.

References
 VG 1122/168.
 EJ103105/7

MINUTES
 In view of the lies which the Beirut press have carried about Jordan since the Lebanese coup d'etat (failed) on Dec 30/31, the P.M. is being slightly disingenuous if he now decides to tell us what he believes that the Beirutis are saying. The tale about the Americans is now old and he should have heard it already. However I do not doubt that the P.M. is right about general Arab belief of the story.

(Printing Instructions)
 1 - 163970

(Outward Action)

(Action completed) *SMW 14/8*
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Al Amman 8/8

6/9/8.

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FROM AMMAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Henniker Major

E105145/1

No. 825

D. 1.50 p.m. August 4, 1962

August 4, 1962

R. 3.20 p.m. August 4, 1962

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 825 of August 4

Repeated for information to: Washington
and Saving to:

Damascus Beirut Cairo
Rabat Tel Aviv

My telegram No. 819: Loan Agreement.

VG 1122/168

Prime Minister saw a member of my staff last night and told him that he was much concerned by reports in Lebanese Press that United States Ambassador in Damascus had offered to mediate in order to restore union between Syria and the U.A.R. He was particularly concerned about juxtaposition of these reports and announcement of our loan to U.A.R.

2. He summoned my United States colleague this morning, and made the same points to him, urging that United States Government should deny the reports which contributed to general Arab belief that the U.A.R. was the chosen instrument of United States Government's Middle Eastern policy.

3. Tel went on to say that he thought reports were particularly dangerous in view of unfortunate timing of announcement of our loan. This had come at a moment when U.A.R. were intensifying their activities in Syria and new Egyptian plot against King Hussein's life had just been unearthed.

4. The United States Ambassador said that nothing in Knight's interview with Syrian President could give grounds for reports and argued that denial would give undue prominence to one of many completely unfounded rumours.

5. I understand, however, that he is supporting recommendation by United States Ambassador in Damascus that the United States Government should issue a statement outlining general American attitude towards Arab unity.

CONFIDENTIAL

/ Foreign Office

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

Cutting dated 17 AUG 1962 19

RE 17
 2/6

U.S. CHANGES
 MIDDLE EAST
 POLICIES

E. Day
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E 103145/2

AID FOR EGYPT

From ERIC DOWNTON,
 Daily Telegraph Special Correspondent

BEIRUT, Thursday.
IMPORTANT readjustments are being made to American policies in the Middle East by President Kennedy's administration, according to diplomatic observers in Arab capitals. The most significant of these reported changes concerns Israel and Egypt.

Washington appears to be adopting a more "objective" attitude on Israel. At the same time it is becoming less sensitive towards the powerful Zionist lobbies in the United States.

American diplomacy in this region is now actively and openly supporting President Nasser, Israel's arch-enemy. Recent American aid enabled the Nasser government to stave off serious economic difficulties and so saved it from acute domestic embarrassment.

Indirectly American aid is also helping Egypt to push ahead with its military build-up, especially rockets and jet bombers. It is by far the largest ever achieved by an Arab state, and poses the biggest military threat to Israel in her 14 years of existence.

"CALCULATED RISK"

American diplomats argue that there is no feasible alternative to President Nasser in sight on the Egyptian scene. The overthrow of the present régime would probably lead to a state of affairs more unfavourable to the Western world.

Their attitude is similar to that taken towards Yugoslavia. It is a calculated risk that extensive economic aid will gradually offset Russian activities, especially Russian co-operation in building the Aswan dam and in supplying military equipment.

Washington has recently increased its efforts to find ways of ameliorating the problem of the Palestine Arab refugees. They fled from areas now within Israel.

American officials are urging the Israeli government to take a more liberal attitude towards the refugees.

M.F.P



CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. C. J. ...
Mr. Beith
Mrs. Chubb
enter
Collyer
19/9

(10417/62)

British Embassy,
WASHINGTON.

September 13, 1962

Dear George, E.103145/3.

In the absence of Denis Speares on leave, I had a general talk with Strong at the State Department this afternoon about Middle Eastern affairs. He made one or two points which are perhaps worth reporting.

(i) The Johnson Plan on Refugees

Strong said that Dr. Johnson had explained his plan to the Israelis in New York on Monday, September 10, in the morning, and to a collective group of Arab delegations in the afternoon. Dr. Comay, the Israeli Representative, had confined his comment to expressing his admiration of Dr. Johnson as a man. The Arabs had kept quiet but have promised comments on Friday, September 14. The State Department are not clear whether these comments will reflect consultation with capitals, but they very much doubt it. On the subject of the Israeli reaction, Strong said that he thought that Mrs. Meir and some of her colleagues were a great deal tougher than Ben Gurion, who had shown some measure of flexibility when the plan had been discussed with him by Meyer Feldman.

Supposedly intended to help the Johnson Plan

Strong said the State Department are unhappy about the timing of various moves in the Middle East in respect of the United States domestic election. He was afraid that the news of missiles for Israel, the Johnson proposals and the P.L.480 agreement with Egypt would all become public at about the same time and that Congress would make election hay out of it, with a detrimental effect, not only on the success of the proposals themselves, but also on the Middle East element of the Foreign Aid Bill which is in any case under strong attack in Congress.

(ii) United States Attitude towards Egypt

Done.
... I am including this for the sake of convenience in this letter, but I would be glad if you would pass the extra copy enclosed to John Beith. Dr. Kaissouni was due in Washington next week, and he clearly hoped to sign the P.L.480 agreement with Egypt. The State Department were going to try to postpone the signature of the agreement for the reasons stated above, and no doubt this would lead to accusations by the Egyptians of bad faith. But the prime objective of the State Department was to prevent domestic politics from churning up the Johnson Plan, and the signature of such a substantial financial agreement with Egypt would inevitably bring the Zionist lobby into action with detrimental effects all round. The State Department are generally disenchanted with Nasser, whose propaganda continues to offend them. They have decided to try a new line

/with the

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Foreign Office, S.W.1

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with the Egyptians by emphasizing the damage on the Egyptian tourist trade which the continued bad image of Egypt inevitably has. They had a very good opportunity of doing this when three Egyptian provincial governors recently visited the State Department, and made a great deal of the tourist facilities which their provinces were going to provide. Strong said that he felt that this line, which could not be represented by the Egyptians as either pro-Zionist or interference in Egyptian domestic affairs, would not be without effect.

(iii) Kurds

Strong said the State Department were a little concerned at the success of the Kurds in attracting adherence to their cause in the United States. A Kurdish office had been set up in New York, and their agents were active all over the country. They had successfully engaged the interest of the usual pro-self-determination Liberals like Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Mr. Justice Douglas, and they were also interesting those numerous people here who dislike Kassim. There was also a rumour that the Ethiopians would bring the Kurdish question before the United Nations. Their interest in playing down the question in the United States of course arises not out of solicitude for Kassim but for the Iranians. Strong said that he would be interested in any views or information that you might have on the question. You will no doubt be seeing the articles which Dana Adam Schmidt has written in the New York Times.

*Have in the
T&E*

(iv) Saudi-Jordanian rapprochement

The contact between Jordan and Saudi-Arabia has pleased the State Department, and they hope that some of the right-mindedness of Wasif Tel will rub off on the Saudis, and that the Saudi Government will eventually take a more up-to-date attitude towards the problems of social reform.

your ever
Denis Greenhill
(D. A. Greenhill)

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