جونسون الى إشكول ورده حول نهر الأردن

2 يناير 1964

لم تحظ الخطة الموحدة أو خطة جونستون، التى وضعت فى 1953–1955 والتى أجرى المبعوث الرئاسى إريك جونستون مفاوضات بشأنها مع الدول الواقعة على ضفاف حوض نهر الأردن، بقبول رسمى. وللحصول على معلومات حول هذه الخطة وسياسة الولايات المتحدة بشأنها، انظر العلاقات الخارجية، 1961–1963.

رد اشكول برسالة بعثها يوم 22 يناير، وقال فيها: إنه يتطلع للقاء الرئيس جونسون، وذكر أنه يثمن بيان جونسون عن العلاقة بين الولايات المتحدة واسرائيل، وأنه يأمل تلقى ردا سريعا على رسالته التى بعث بها يوم 4 نوفمبر، وإن تأكيدات جونسون أن الولايات المتحدة تؤيد انسحاب اسرائيل من مياه الأردن وفقا للخطة الموحدة، شجعته كثيرا.

Washington, January 2, 1964.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The visit to Israel of my good friend, Sargent Shriver, Director of the Peace Corps, provides an occasion for me to renew the frank and friendly exchange between our two governments.[2] Shriver delivered the President's letter to Prime Minister Eshkol on January 7. Their conversation is summarized in telegram 751 from Tel Aviv, January 8. (Ibid.) A January 29 memorandum from Robert W. Komer of the NSC Staff refers to an invitation conveyed by Shriver to Eshkol to visit Washington. (Johnson Library, National Security File, Country File, Israel)

I am of course familiar with the correspondence between President Kennedy and yourself as well as former Prime Minister Ben-Gurion. I too value greatly the close and candid relationship that exists between our two governments. This must continue,

so I look forward to establishing the same high degree of mutual understanding as existed during the administrations of our predecessors. Among the major problems which we will have to consider in the near future is that of the Jordan waters, on which we stand behind you in your right of withdrawal in accordance with the Unified Plan.[3]The Unified Plan, or Johnston Plan, developed in 1953–1955 negotiations with the riparian states of the Jordan River Basin conducted by Presidential emissary Eric Johnston, had never received formal acceptance. For information about the Plan and U.S. policy concerning it, see *Foreign Relations*, 1961–1963, vol. XVII, Document 8, andvol. XVIII, Documents 352 and 355. Also high on our agenda is the assurance of Israel's future security, in ways which will stabilize rather than upset the situation in the area. We are much concerned, too,

with finding a satisfactory way to settle the refugee problem, as a prerequisite to Arab-Israeli peace. You may be sure that we are giving these questions our earnest attention and hope to exchange views fully and frankly with your government on the best means of handling them. I hope to write you again soon in response to your letter of November 4[4][For information concerning Eshkol's November 4 letter to Kennedy, see ibid.,Document 356.] on Israel's security problems.

Meanwhile, I want to assure you that I stand fully by President Kennedy's public declaration on May 8, 1963,[5][For text of the statement that President Kennedy made during a press conference on May 8, 1963, see *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: John F. Kennedy, 1963*, p. 373.] that we are determined to defend the security of all states in the Near East, as well as our other public and

private assurances of support for the safety of Israel. There will be no change in the policy of the United States Government on this issue.

I hope I may look forward to the pleasure of meeting you sometime in the not too distant future to talk things over face to face.[6] [Eshkol replied in a letter of January 22 that he looked forward to meeting Johnson, that he valued Johnson's statement on the U.S.-Israel relationship, that he hoped for an early reply to his November 4 letter, and that he was encouraged by Johnson's assurance of U.S. support of Israel's withdrawal of Jordan waters in accordance with the Unified Plan. (Johnson Library, National Security File, Special Head of State Correspondence File, Israel)](#)

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson