

"If normal dealings with Foreign Ministry are out of question, even with assurances that no political capital would be made of them."

1. No indication to be made to new Prime Minister of our line.
2. A courtesy call would be paid on new Foreign Minister.
3. Sharett would be informed that question whether Heads of Missions can call on him at Foreign Ministry would not be decided for a month or two because possibility prejudicing Israel-Arab negotiations and that, in meantime, he should agree to meet us either elsewhere in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

Embassy Comment: I agree with British Ambassador's analysis of underlying situation. Important point seems to be to keep operations working on practical basis but in no way prejudicing Israel-Arab negotiations or in fact contravening UN resolution on Jerusalem. In any event the temporary character of these operations and avoidance publicity should be insisted upon whatever arrangements are made.

— Therefore if arrangement under point 3 can be made and publicity controlled and practical working conditions as now exist can continue we would avoid for moment (a) adverse reactions on prospects of following up Secretary's statement (b) bitter and sterile dispute with new government (c) prejudicing Sharett's position vis-à-vis Ben-Gurion and Cabinet.

Alternative would be for an effort to be made to force Sharett to agree to meet us alternatively at Foreign Office and Tel Aviv an agreement which I rather doubt he would make except under compelling conditions. Even if arranged, it would place us in position of recognizing Foreign Office in Jerusalem in operational sense, something we would avoid under British Ambassador's proposal point 3.

Lawson

242. Editorial Note

In telegram 61 from Jerusalem, August 31, Consul General Cole reported that Major General Burns was issuing a press release regarding the cease-fire which would state that the Egyptians had agreed to a cease-fire and said they would issue orders to implement it and that Burns was endeavoring to obtain Israeli agreement to a cease-fire. (Department of State, Central Files, 674.84A/8-3155) Telegram 196 from Jerusalem, also dated August 31, transmitted the text of the Israeli reply to Burns' proposal. It declared that the