

Therefore, in my judgment, this operation as well as subsequent details developed during the discussions will not be as closely held within the GOI as within the USG.

In view of the initiative taken by Raphael in introducing this subject, his closeness to Sharett and past experiences of the Embassy, we should not overlook the possibility that Raphael may have been transmitting Sharett's initial views on the efficacy of the proposed operation.

Lawson

12. Editorial Note

On January 9, President Eisenhower signed letters introducing former Deputy Secretary of Defense and personal friend, Robert B. Anderson, to Egyptian Prime Minister Nasser and to Israeli Prime Minister Ben Gurion and informing them that he had asked Anderson to review and to discuss with them the serious problems confronting Egypt, Israel, and the Middle East in general. The President indicated to Ben Gurion and Nasser that "Anderson fully understands my personal concern and hopes in this area, which I am sure you and he will want to explore completely." President Eisenhower also expressed his hope to both of them that they would be able to work effectively with Anderson "to render . . . valuable assistance in working toward settlement of these problems." (Eisenhower Library, Whitman File, Dulles-Herter Series)

13. Telegram From the Embassy in Israel to the Department of State¹

Tel Aviv, January 10, 1956—2 p.m.

693. At Prime Minister's request I met with him and Foreign Minister yesterday for an hour. Difficult to assess reason for this

¹ Source: Department of State, Central Files, 784A.56/1-1056. Secret. Received at 9:36 a.m., January 11. Repeated to London, Paris, and Cairo.