

83. Memorandum for the Record<sup>1</sup>

*Washington, undated.*

(Mr. Rountree's Briefing of Ambassador Ogden R. Reid, June 11, 1959)<sup>2</sup>

(The following is a paraphrase of remarks exchanged by Mr. Rountree and Mr. Reid. Others present were Murat Williams and William L. Hamilton.)

*United States-Israel Relationships*

Mr. Rountree: Israel occupies a very special place in U.S. international relations. Because of its youthful vigor, its dynamism, its triumph over great odds, it holds a special place in the esteem of the American people and, of course, is of particular interest to the American Jewish community which is more effective in support of its protegee than any other American minority.

A very close relationship with Israel has to be carefully balanced by our attention to the Arab states. Impartiality is essential but not always easy either for the U.S. Government itself or individuals to exercise. It will be important for you to take no position that tends to identify you with Israel causes or interests.

Mr. Reid: I hope I am sufficiently sensitive to this consideration. It is my intention to represent the U.S. first, last and always and to make that intention clear at all times. I appreciate that it will be difficult and I am already aware in a small degree of the pressure that can be brought to bear on one going to Israel by its friends.

*Status of Jerusalem*

Mr. Rountree: Many problems in our relations with the Government of Israel arise with our determination to support the U.N. resolutions on various aspects of the Palestinian complex. For example, we have never weakened in our determination to respect the resolutions giving a special status to Jerusalem. It is important to avoid public actions or statements which in any way indicate that we are resigned to Israel's conduct of government in Jerusalem in resistance to the expressed desire of the U.N. This imposes a difficult responsibility on our Embassy, not only in support of our own policy but because of its

<sup>1</sup> Source Department of State, Central Files, 611 84A/6-1159. Secret Drafted by Hamilton on June 17.

<sup>2</sup> On March 12, the Department of State announced that Ogden R. Reid had been nominated as the new Ambassador to Israel. The Senate confirmed the appointment on June 4 and Reid presented his credentials on July 2.