

non felt "constrained in view seriousness this situation (if true) express strong agreement with Salaam's estimate. Arab world, lifted up and encouraged by what they regard as 'new look' in American NE policy, would be so hurt and emotionally upset by such a move that great opportunity which we now possess would be prejudiced and Secretary placed on defensive during his visit." Telegram 689 from Damascus, May 12, advised the Department that several high-ranking Syrian officials insisted Israel would use Dulles' visit to buttress their claim that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel.

Telegram 954 from Amman, May 11, advised the Department that the Secretary's plans to attend a luncheon in Israeli-held Jerusalem as a guest of Ben Gurion would be viewed as American recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Telegram 2415 from Cairo, May 12, reported the Secretary was concerned over the effect his meetings in Jerusalem were having on the Arabs. He considered it too late to shift the meetings to Tel Aviv but asked the Embassy in Tel Aviv to advance the time of the events scheduled in Jerusalem so that he could cross the Mandelbaum Gate at about 3 p. m. and spend at least an hour in Arab Jerusalem. Documentation is in Department of State file 110.11 DU.

No. 13

Conference files, lot 98 D 95, CF 156

*Memorandum of Conversation, Prepared in the Embassy in Israel*¹

SECRET

TEL AVIV, May 14, 1953--11 a. m.

ST D-2/1

Subject: Israel

Participants:

United States

Israel

Mr. John Foster Dulles

H. E. David Ben Gurion,

Mr. Harold E. Stassen

Prime Minister

Mr. Francis H. Russell

Prime Minister Ben Gurion expressed hope that the Secretary's mission, including objective of winning Arab friendship, would prove success, and commented as follows on Soviet threat, Israel's potential role in Middle East defense, United States role in Middle East and Israel-Arab relations.

Soviet threat: The Prime Minister agreed with Foreign Minister Sharett in meaning Soviet peace offensive, saying no change in

¹ This conversation took place in the office of the Prime Minister, in Jerusalem.