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

CONFIDENTIAL

AMMAN, May 15, 1953—9 a. m.

ST D-3/2

Subject: Jordan

Participants:

United States

Jordan

Mr. Harold E. Stassen

Dr. Hussein Khalidy,

Mr. Douglas MacArthur

Foreign Minister

Mr. Henry A. Byroade

Mr. M. E. Mattison

Mr. Andrew G. Lynch

Mr. Tracy R. Welling

After the usual exchange of compliments Mr. Stassen explained to the Foreign Minister that the primary purpose of the Secretary's visit, and his visit was, insofar as possible in the short time at their disposal, to learn of the problems of the countries they were passing through. The Foreign Minister, Dr. Hussein Khalidy, then embarked on a résumé of the political situation as between Jordan, the Arab states and Israel. He went back, with apologies, to 1920 and he explained how over the years the Arabs of Palestine had seen their doom approaching. They had known quite well the fate in store for them and had repeatedly warned the Mandatory power that Jewry was determined to establish a national State in Palestine. Their fears had been repeatedly ridiculed. They had had figures thrown at them which were designed to show that the immigration of Jews into Palestine was more than taken care of by the natural increase in the Arab population. There had been numerous commissions of investigation and innumerable reports, all recommending against the establishment of a State of Israel.

Now we could all see what had happened. He did not wish, he said, to dwell upon things of the past, but some appreciation of what had happened to the Palestinian Arabs was essential to any understanding of the problem today. He emphasized that he was a refugee from what is now Israel. He had lost a home in Jaffa and a home in Jerusalem. When he was in office he lived on his salary. When he was out of office he lived on the charity of his relations. Jordan, the Minister said, wished to be on friendly terms with all

¹ This conversation took place in the office of the Foreign Minister.