

which would be more fair and more just than those of the past, although it, of course, would not be appropriate for him to criticize on foreign soil a preceding government of the United States. The United States has definitely set itself, he said, against any aggressive tendencies by Israel. Already during the last six months, Israel immigration has come to a standstill. The Secretary said he hoped very much that as fear subsides through assurances against aggression there would develop a better relationship and a reduction in tension in this area. He added that the new administration in Washington is seeking approval from Congress for appropriations which would permit the United States to be more even-handed in its aid to the area than heretofore.

6. *Regional Defense.* With regard to regional defense, the Secretary recognized that security in this area should be sought in ways whereby the people of the area would themselves be primarily responsible. He realized that no collective scheme could be imposed from without.

7. *Hope for Future.* The Secretary stated that it was his hope that the steps which would be taken by the Washington administration, thoughts concerning which had been stated during his talk, would convince his hearers that a new era in Arab-American relations is opening. He said he wished to close with a plea for greater confidence in each other, faith in America's purposes, and patience and restraint to permit the new administration's policies to develop. He closed with an admonition that it was his understanding that this discussion was in "executive session" and its substance would not be reported outside the walls of the committee room.

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*Memorandum of Conversation. Prepared in the Embassy in Lebanon*¹

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BEIRUT, May 17, 1953.

Subject: UNRWA and the Palestine Refugees

Participants:

United States

Lebanon

Honorable John Foster Dulles,
Secretary of State

Leslie J. Carver, Acting
Director, UNRWA

¹ This conversation took place at the American Embassy in Lebanon.