

The Secretary closed the discussion by expressing the appreciation of the U.S. Government of the difficult task which UNRWA was facing.

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*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Second Secretary of Embassy in Lebanon (Meyer)*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

BEIRUT, May 17, 1953.

ST D-5/5

Subject: Lebanon

Participants:

United States

The Honorable John Foster

Dulles, Secretary of State

The Honorable Henry A.

Byroade, Assistant Secretary
of State

The Honorable Douglas

MacArthur II, State

Department Counselor

Lt. Colonel Stephen Meade, U.S.
Army

Lebanon

Col. William A. Eddy, Middle
East Consultant for TAPLINE
and ARAMCO

Dr. Park Johnson, Presbyterian
Field Representative

Dr. William Stoltzfus, President
Beirut College for Women

Dr. Alford Carleton, President
Aleppo College

Reporter: Armin H. Meyer, Second Secretary of Embassy

1. *Deteriorating Situation in the Near East.* Dr. Carleton opened the discussion by remarking that he and his three associates represented altogether over 100 years of association with the Near East. They regretted to report that the situation in this area is worse than it was several years ago, that frustration is deeper, and that there exists fundamentally a keen sense of insecurity. They feared that this disintegration is not only detrimental to United States interests, but is tragic for the area itself. At the root of the trouble, of course, was Israel, against whom the Arabs are conducting a cold war of much greater importance to them than the cold war against Russia. Dr. Carleton reported Colonel Shishikli had told him recently that not one significant case can be cited where the United States has said no to Israel. Unless America does something, Dr. Carleton said, it is no use to talk to the Arabs at all. Colonel Eddy later asserted that the United States has lost its

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