

There is also hesitation recommend that United States take major policy step in light of highly conflicting engineering judgments as to technical feasibility as between TVA and TCA/Jordan. Feeling is that United States Government should be completely sure of ground technically before embarking on political course action. Among technical questions to be firmly answered are (1) suitability Tiberias as reservoir view evaporation and geological faults, and (2) firm opinion from Baker-Harza engineers on spot as to feasibility cost time of construction Maqarbn Dam. Baker-Harza study should forward as expeditiously as possible while more convincing data regarding Tiberias as reservoir should be sought from all sources including Israel.

VI. UNRWA.

RECNE took note of projected firm line of Carver report to United Nations General Assembly.³ Agreed would be useful take further diplomatic steps convince Arabs relief has time limit and necessity for more expeditious cooperation on resettlement.

CAFFERY

³ Not further identified.

No. 151

789.5/8-1753

*The Secretary of State to the Secretary of Defense (Wilson)*¹

TOP SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] September 8, 1953.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I refer to your letter of August 17, 1953,² in which you informed me of the concept under which the Joint Chiefs of Staff believe military aid to the Middle East should be administered. You requested that the Department of State set forth the political factors which should be taken into consideration by the Department of Defense in planning the execution of the first phase of the military aid program in the Middle East area.

The Chiefs of American Diplomatic Missions in the Arab States and Israel met at Cairo on August 28 and 29, together with representatives of the Department of Defense and Department of State, to discuss this question.³ They came to the following conclusions:

1. The \$30 million appropriated by the Congress specifically for military aid to the Near East (exclusive of Greece, Turkey and Iran) should be programmed as soon as possible for assistance to Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon. If it should

¹ This letter was drafted by Jernegan and cleared by NE, S/S, EUR, and S/MSA.

² Document 147.

³ See telegrams 271 and 272 from Cairo, Document 149 and *supra*.