

ual governments concerned could then make their viewpoints known to the companies, who in turn would negotiate within the framework of their governments over-all objectives. M. Clauzel then questioned whether the U.S. would agree to meet with England, France and Holland to discuss current petroleum problems.

Mr. Hart noted that such a meeting would have the danger of appearing to the Middle Eastern countries as though we were ganging up against them. Mr. Armstrong recalled the strong domestic reaction to the Anglo-American oil agreement and questioned whether the domestic reaction to a quadripartite meeting might not be so severe as to defeat its objectives.

M. Clauzel observed that the group agreed that such a meeting would be valuable, but that any publicity could be harmful. He therefore proposed that the meetings be confined to the usual diplomatic channels in an endeavor to avoid publicity.

Mr. Hart replied that we would have to defer an answer as to our position concerning the proposed quadripartite discussions. He then stated that Mr. Eakens had agreed to draft a paper setting forth the ideas expressed by the members of both delegations on each of the problems discussed. It was agreed by the group that the contents of these papers would not necessarily represent the official positions of the respective governments.

The group agreed to meet at 11:00 a. m. the following morning to discuss the draft papers.

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### No. 324

883A.2553/12-2253: Telegram

#### *The Ambassador in Lebanon (Hare) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

CONFIDENTIAL

BEIRUT, December 22, 1953.

542. Following are Embassy's comments on request of Prime Minister Yafi that USG urge American participants in IPC to accept renegotiation (Embtel 531, December 18):<sup>2</sup>

(1) Although there may be a certain degree of sincerity in request of Yafi and in agitation by others, primary motivation believed to be desire to exploit issue for local political or personal reasons. For example, in case of Prime Minister Yafi, it is former; in case of former Prime Minister Salaam, it is latter.

(2) Along with foregoing, there is no gainsaying fact that Lebanese, despite their inherent business sense, have allowed them-

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<sup>1</sup> This telegram was sent by pouch.

<sup>2</sup> Document 319.