

UNITED STATES INTEREST IN PROMOTING A REDUCTION
OF TENSION BETWEEN THE ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL;
UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, THE HASHE-
MITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN, LEBANON, AND SYRIA;
UNITED STATES INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE NEAR EAST; THE MIS-
SIONS OF ERIC JOHNSTON ¹

No. 381

683.84A/1-952: Telegram

The Minister in Syria (Cannon) to the Department of State ²

SECRET

DAMASCUS, January 9, 1952--5 p. m.

408. We fully endorse views expressed Emb Tel Aviv tel 57 [67], ³ December 27 and are encouraged to find Eban and other senior Israeli leaders are beginning to realize importance of taking Arab public opinion into account. We recognize that it two-way proposition and we believe that as time goes on and Eban's attitude proves catching we can persuade Syrian leaders adopt similar realistic attitudes.

Meanwhile, now that emergency meetings have been held on Baniyas and Tiberias report Iberias incidents we think much depends on persuading both parties to resume formal meetings MAC. However, we are concerned lest Israel should insist as previously on inclusion of broader subjects on MAC agenda. Should this intransigent attitude re agenda be maintained it is unlikely that Syrians will see much point to holding formal meetings. In Syrian eyes there is always good rationalization for their negative attitude toward resumption formal MAC meetings in fact that Israel has not fully complied with May 18 Security Council res ⁴ and seems have no intentions further compliance.

¹ For previous documentation, see *Foreign Relations*, 1951, vol. v, pp. 559 ff.

² Repeated for information to Tel Aviv.

³ Telegram 57 from Tel Aviv to Damascus (here misidentified as telegram 57) was a repeat of telegram 627 from Tel Aviv to Washington, Dec. 27, in *Foreign Relations*, 1951, vol. v, p. 973.

⁴ For the text of the Security Council Resolution of May 18, 1951 (U.N. doc. S/2157), see *ibid.*, p. 693.