

We have never misled Shishikli about what can be done re Israel (para 5b Deptel 238 ⁵) but we wonder if US silence re Israel's non-compliance with May 18 res which US cosponsored has not misled both parties. If that silence were compounded, for example, with US intercession to obtain release of Israeli prisoners held by Syrians (Tel Aviv tel 65 Dec 13, 1951) ⁶ our position re impartiality would be seriously jeopardized. We appreciate difficulties involved in persuading parties to negotiate on reasonable basis. Perhaps some clarification, for Arab consumption, of US attitude toward Israel's misdeeds in demil zone dispute and expression of our belief in need for mutually satisfactory solution of whole zone question (Legtel 319, Dec 3, 1951) ⁷ would help us to obtain Syrian cooperation. Such clarification our attitude, and that of other powers, if based on impartial consideration of issues involved, should not mislead either Syrians or Israelis.

CANNON

⁵ Dated Dec. 14, 1951; for text, see *Foreign Relations*, 1951, vol. v, p. 1090.

⁶ Telegram 65 from Tel Aviv to Damascus, not printed, was a repeat of telegram 578 from Tel Aviv to Washington, Dec. 13, 7 p. m. It reported that the Israeli Foreign Office had presented an *aide-mémoire* to the Embassy requesting assistance in obtaining the release of five young Israelis detained in Syria since August. The *aide-mémoire* stated that efforts to secure their release through the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization had been unsuccessful, and that it was to be expected that the continued failure of the Syrian authorities to release and return the Israelis would obstruct the working of the Syria-Israel Armistice Agreement and aggravate the border situation. (683.84A/12-1351)

⁷ *Foreign Relations*, 1951, vol. v, p. 950.

No. 382

683.84A/12-2751: Telegram

The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Israel ¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, January 14, 1952—3:55 p. m.

490. Dept appreciates helpful comments contained Tel Aviv Embtel 627 Dec 27 ² and Damascus Legtel 408 Jan 9. Dept sincerely hopes change in Israel attitude will follow as result Eban's visit and Emb representations. Dept considers paramount importance Syrian-Israel MAC resume mtgs. Chairman MAC has sufficient auth deal with questions he considers shld be discussed.

Dept concurs fully Emb and Leg views that intervention with Syrian Govt effect release Israel prisoners undesirable and inappro-

¹ Repeated to Damascus, Amman, Jerusalem, Paris, and Beirut.

² See footnote 3, *supra*.