

28; ⁴ Legtel Beirut 212 September 4. ⁵ View urgency proceed UNRWA projects, Dept has given further cons Jordan irrigation proposal contained MacDonald report published March 1951. ⁶ Fact that engineering plans well advanced and presumption that objectives UNRWA program wld be furthered by such proj in HKJ, both lead necessity of thorough examination all or part this proj for UNRWA purposes.

Dept interest learn soonest other proposals which cld conceivably result establishment 18 thousand new self-sustaining farms within reasonable time.

Fol course action suggested: US Member Adcom shld press for early consideration UNRWA of all MacDonald proposals or initial stages thereof; UNRWA shld be urged: (1) study proposals on merits regardless polit boundary problems and water rights; (2) discuss with HKJ Syria and Israel possibilities some such proposals being put into effect.

If sound technical grounds exist to push ahead, Dept will do everything feasible to assist UNRWA resolve polit difficulties. Meanwhile Dept wld appreciate comment Missions Amman, Damascus, Beirut, Tel Aviv re practicability UNRWA undertaking this proj in light political difficulties as you see them.

ACHESON

procedure outlined in its telegram 161 to Beirut of Aug. 16 was most likely to achieve results. The Department further stated that it would object to the use of U.S. or U.N. funds for the Yarmuk project until such agreement had been reached. (320.2AA/8-3051)

⁴ Telegram 194 from Beirut, Aug. 28, 1951 (identified also as telegram Rapun 208) conveyed Blandford's request to have the Department's answer to the following questions with regard to the Yarmuk project: "(1) Is Israel likely claim Jordan development of Yarmuk is hostile act? (2) Does Dept contemplate using US grant aid funds on Yarmuk projects?" (320.2AA/8-2851)

⁵ Not printed.

⁶ Sir Murdoch MacDonald and Partners, *Report on the Proposed Extension of Irrigation in the Jordan Valley* (London, 1951).

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The Acting Secretary of State to the Secretary of Defense (Lovett)

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, February 11, 1952.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: The Department of State has received from the Chargé d'Affaires of the Israel Embassy a note ¹ request-

¹ Dated Jan. 28, not printed. (784A.5 MSP/1-2852)