

France wld associate itself therewith. He suggested that possibly for reasons of face and in order to avoid prejudice to NE defense, Egypt might prefer simply to "overlook" passage of Israeli goods through Canal.

Eban commented that this possibility could be better assessed after Egyptian reply to suggested representations. Jebb thought such course would be easier for Egyptians if they felt sure Israel wld give no publicity to opening up Canal to its goods and ships.

Re this observation and time question I had brought up, Eban thought suggested representations should include mention that Israel intends to utilize its maritime rights to the full. This led me to observe that alternatives 2 and 3 were tactical steps leading to some further objective. I inquired what that objective was, if Egypt refused. Eban replied that if there is case of obstruction in course of test Israel would certainly bring matter to SC. Timing of such action would necessarily be influenced by Israel's fear that delay might be interpreted as sanction of obstruction, as well as by economic burden on Israel.

In reply to query from Ross whether Israel might obtain some clarification of its questions from Egyptians themselves, Eban said this matter cld not be dealt with by personnel of Israeli-Egypt MAC, only official mtg place of Israel and Egypt, nor through their informal contacts with non-governmental Egyptians.

Speaking for US, France and UK, I said it was clear we were agreed that we shld seek instructions from our govts and renew discussion with Eban after receipt thereof. I undertook to keep in touch with respective dels and arrange such mtg, when circumstances warrant.

Gross

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No. 427

68384A/4-2752 Telegram

*The Chargé in Israel (Keeler) to the Department of State*

SECRET

TEL AVIV, April 27, 1952—noon.

1115. For Department only. UNTSO Chief of Staff advises dispute between Syria and Israel over Huleh question may assume serious character again unless early solution can be found for problem pertaining to Bouteiha farm mentioned Damascus Legtel 608,