

with shooting if they do not get out (to Syria). Arab women gathering firewood north of Shamalneh were fired upon May 2.

2. Arab farmers working on 300 dunums of PLDC owned land east of dam above Daughters of Jacob Bridge have been ordered desist, notwithstanding fact they have farmed this land for many years. Israel has threatened eject them forcibly and fired on unarmed farmers May 2.

No casualties reported.

These developments came shortly after Syrians had asked MAC Chairman inform Israel Govt their desire establish new demarcation line they have been considering (Legtel 319 Dec 3<sup>2</sup> and Leg-desp 317 Dec 5<sup>3</sup>) and were awaiting Israel reply.

Syrians did not return fire but are increasingly retive [restive?]. They have great respect for MAC Chairman Taxis and we believe he can continue control situation if given proper dipl support. We are counselling Syrians place full confidence in him and refrain from resort to arms regardless of provocation.

We recommend Dept consider urging Israel reps both in Washington and Tel Aviv give full coop to MAC Chairman and move towards settlement zone question by refraining from any use force and giving sympathetic consideration Syrian proposals for new demarcation line. Only if Syria and Israel can be brought to attend MAC mtgs on zone question in spirit of compromise does peaceful settlement appear likely.

CANNON

<sup>2</sup> For text, see *Foreign Relations*, 1951, vol. v, p. 1309.

<sup>3</sup> Not printed.

## No. 429

682.84A/5-562: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Israel (Davis) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

TEL AVIV, May 5, 1952—4 p. m.

1149. In recent conversation with FonMin Sharett I inquired whether FonOff had any late info re developments in Huleh situation, adding it was my understanding Syrians were concerned over damage resulting from dam closure and were desirous enter into direct conversations with Israelis to work out mutually satis solution. Stated it was understanding my informant that Syrians would not be inclined renew their objections to continuation of work on

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Jerusalem for the information of General Riley.