

project provided satis practical arrangement could be made to obviate damage to irrigation canals and crops on land in Syria dependent on Jordan water.

FonMin said he was uninformed on particular subject, but if above understanding correct, it represented new info to him of great importance. He said in fact it would be "too good to be true". I reminded him of our efforts to encourage direct negots wherever possible and expressed hope Israel Govt would not object on basis any technicality to take advantage of this and any other opportunities direct negots.

Dept see Embtel 1115, April 27.

DAVIS

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No. 430

68184A/5-752 Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY TEL AVIV, May 7, 1952—7 p. in.

1164. Knowing FonMin's personal desire to avoid deterioration Huleh controversy and in view his obvious interest in possibility direct negots with Syrian reps re damage to canals and crops resulting from work on project (Embtel 1149, May 5), I told him today Emb has report that certain acts of a provocative nature have been committed by Israelis in Huleh region recently, similar to those which led to armed hostilities last year. Without citing source I outlined substance allegations set forth Damascus Legtel 649, May 5 to Dept. It was obvious Sharett was extremely interested and stated matter wld receive immed attention. He told me he had suggested apropos question of damage to canals and crops, that Israel reps agree meet Syrian reps for frank discussion of question with view to finding mutually satis arrangement which wld obviate damage and yet permit continuation work on project.

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<sup>1</sup> Repeated for information to London, Paris, Ankara, Moscow, Rome, Tripoli, Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jidda, and Jerusalem (for Riley).