

clearly been growing that it is to the advantage of the progressive elements within each Arab country to participate in a solution of the problem, and that Israel is suffering far less than the Arab extremists are benefiting as a result of the present unhappy state of affairs.

A dramatic instance of the development of a greater sense of responsibility is afforded by the current Blandford-Selo negotiations which look to the eventual integration of 500,000 additional refugees in Syria. Although the Syrian Government wishes to maintain secrecy in reaching an understanding and has asked that any program adopted be placed under way without publicity, it has indicated a willingness to discuss an agreement which, if concluded, would eventually lead to the solution of one of the most difficult aspects of the refugee problem: the large numbers of refugees who cannot, because of economic limitations, be settled in the countries where they are now being cared for. Even if the current negotiations should not prove to be immediately successful, the Department sees evidence in the Syrian attitude of an additional and important improvement in the political climate which brings the solution of the problem one step nearer.

In view of these considerations, the Department is prepared at present to support only such modifications in UNRWA's method of operation and approach to the refugee problem as may be suggested by changes in the situation resulting from the progress of UNRWA's own negotiations. The Department hopes that the Legation will continue to report its thinking in light of developments as they occur and will maintain its free interchange of ideas with the British Legation.

ACHESON

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No. 432

68324A/5-1352: Telegram

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

SECRET

TEL AVIV, May 13, 1952—6 p. m.

1191. UNTSO Chief of Staff advises that fol has been reported to UN under date of May 12. He requests that Dept and Emb Damascus regard it as background and that content not be discussed with Syrian reps. Content of message as fols:

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<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Damascus and Jerusalem (for Riley).