

"On subject of adjustment of demarcation line, the senior Syrian del to the MAC asked the senior Israel del to state the position of the former's govt on this subject. The latter replied in the presence of the MAC Chairman that the GOI was prepared to undertake secret discussions at high level on Syria-Israel relations, adding that in such discussions both parties submit any proposal and raise any question they wished. The senior Syrian del inquired whether the Israelis were proposing to discuss peace. Israel del replied in the negative. Syrian del said he wld submit Israel's proposal to his govt forthwith but expressed as his personal opinion the belief his govt wld not undertake discussions this nature without UN reps being present. MAC Chairman expects to see Syrian Chief of Staff May 14 or 15 and believes high-level Israel-Syria talks may serve to reduce tension. Hence will make every effort obtain affirmative answer from Syria."

DAVIS

## No. 433

683.84A/3-1452: Telegram

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

SECRET

TEL AVIV, May 14, 1952—11 a. m.

1192. Re Embtel 1164, May 7 and previous concerning Huleh controversy. Chief of Staff UNTSO advises fol report was sent to UN on result informal mtg ISMAC Monday May 12 at which reps of Palestine Land Development Corp and Buteiha Farm were present. Text of msg fols:

"Summary of informal mtg ISMAC 12 May 1952.

a. Palestine Land Development Corp and Buteiha Farm were represented at mtg. Senior Israel delegate insisted upon discussion of use of checking gates without limiting such use to repair of bridge. Senior Syrian delegate stated Syria was prepared to discuss use of gates only with ref to repair of bridge. Chairman pointed out to both parties that their viewpoints had been made clear but that the fundamental problem was whether or not the gates wld be operated without damage to lands to the south. Chairman's questioning of Mr. Nachmani (Pal Land Development Corp) brought forth Pal Land Development Corp statement that in order to facilitate Pal Land Development Corp work it wld be necessary to close all gates, and that the partial closing of the gates wld be of little or no use. Buteiha Farm owners stated that at this time any closure of the gates wld have a serious effect upon the farm. Pal Land Development Corp asked that a survey on the ground of the actual needs of the farm be made. Senior Syrian delegate wld not accept a

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to London, Paris, Ankara, Beirut, Damascus, and Jerusalem (for Riley).