

## No. 458

68384A/7-2052 Telegram

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

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105. Comment on Embtels 95<sup>2</sup> and 100.<sup>3</sup> Emb considers recent events such as fol represent definite setback to attempts improve conditions NE and add up to serious deterioration Israel-Arab rels:

(1) Failure Jordan cabinet approve Touqan-Ramati agreement re Latrun even though agreement within framework armistice and held unquestioned benefits for both parties, including opportunity Arab peasants regain farms. Reason for failure apparently Arab policy that no settlement shld be made with Israel.

(2) Reported public statements Jordan PriMin that he had never negotiated and wld never negotiate such agreements with Israel (apparently advantages to Jordan population and to region not considered relevant).

(3) Meeting Damascus of reps armistice commissions four Arab states, with attendant publicity just prior scheduled Israel-Syrian "high level" meeting and reported announcement that chiefs of staff these Arab states to meet Alexandria in Aug, all of which had provocative effect both sides.

(4) Repeated postponements "high level" meeting between Israel and Syria with publicity reported Syrian demands on Israel contemplated make it more difficult for both sides reach agreement (Embtel 71).<sup>4</sup>

(5) Increase in border incidents after Touqan's resignation, influenced it is understood by inability obtain Jordan Govt support for Latrun and other decisions. Most serious thus far is recent murder five Israel watchmen Negev Copper Mine (refels and Jerusalem Contel 9 to Dept).<sup>4</sup>

(6) Climax to unfavorable polit trend, statements attributed to Arab League spokesman just published to effect that Israel may try to take over all Jerusalem, that Arabs advised seek solution Palestine problem without further ref to UN, that Arab refugees shld concentrate within Jordan controlled Palestine or in other areas close to Israel border, and that "not single Arab country thinks of concluding peace treaty with Israel."

Despite obvious advantages of liquidating Arab-Israel conflict, we in other west countries have been singularly unsuccessful in persuading any NE country to move toward settlement. Even Israel is giving prior attention to other interests it considers more pressing:

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Jerusalem, London, Paris, Ankara, Amman, Beirut, Baghdad, Damascus, and Cairo; sent by pouch to Jidda.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 2, *supra*.

<sup>3</sup> *Supra*.

<sup>4</sup> Not printed.