

## No. 464

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*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Officer in Charge of Egypt  
and Anglo-Egyptian Sudan Affairs (Stabler)*

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] July 31, 1952.

Subject: Israel Views on Egyptian Situation

Participants: Mr. Abba Eban, Ambassador of Israel  
Mr. Eliashiv Ben-Horin, First Secretary of the  
Embassy  
NE—Mr. Hart  
NE—Mr. Stabler

Mr. Eban called on Mr. Hart on July 31 at the former's request. Mr. Eban said that he and his government had been giving considerable thought to recent developments in Egypt and desired to exchange views with the Department. He mentioned that Mr. Sharrett and Ambassador Davis had had a conversation in Tel Aviv on this subject which is of great interest to the Israeli Government.

Mr. Eban said that it was his government's view that it was too early yet to tell in what direction Egypt was headed, but that it seemed useful to exchange views with the Department at this stage in the hope of evolving some ideas. The loss of King Farouk was not necessarily a disturbing factor from Israel's point of view since Israel believed that Farouk had adopted an intransigent attitude toward Israel and that he had in fact instructed his diplomatic representatives not to think in terms of Egyptian-Israel peace. On the other hand, the constant reference to General Naguib as a "hero in the Palestine war" and continued discussion regarding Palestine War arms scandal as the reason for Egypt's defeat were disturbing. According to Israel officers they had no recollection of Naguib and he had not in any way stood out during the Palestine affair. The Israel Government was concerned that continued references to the Palestine "War" might revive aggressive ideology among Egyptian officers.

The Israel Government was also concerned by the growth of military dictatorships in the countries which surround Israel, since with the decline of civilian thinking, military thinking would prevail and in the case of Syria, there was little evidence that the Syrian regime wished to come to terms with Israel. Mr. Eban alluded to the fact that the United States had urged Israel to be more forthcoming in connection with Shishikli and said that while Israel was endeavoring to respond to these suggestions, there was no evidence of a similar attitude on the part of the Syrians. Mr. Eban