

Near East. It was emphasized that this was purely a personal suggestion and had no status. Mr. Eban said he thought the idea might have merit but he wondered whether the UK would be willing to involve itself in this question when it was already a party to another dispute. The Department's representatives emphasized that the situation would have to become a great deal more clear before thought could be given to the matter raised by Mr. Eban but that he could be assured that the US Government still had as its policy peace between the Arab States and Israel. It was agreed that we would keep in touch with the Israel Government concerning this question.

During the course of the conversation the Department's representatives mentioned that some concern had been felt by Egyptian military authorities in Gaza over Israel military maneuvers in that area. Mr. Eban said that his government had issued a public statement to the effect that Israel fully respected the Egypt-Israel Armistice agreement which still governed relationship between those two countries. It was the hope of the Government that Egypt would issue a similar statement.

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974.5301/7-3152: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in the United Kingdom*<sup>1</sup>

CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON, July 31, 1952—5:19 p. m.

707. Dept has informed Brit and Fr Embs receipt Israeli note dated July 28<sup>2</sup> which urges US secure Egypt compliance SC Res Sep 1, 1951 on Suez restrictions and states Israel wld welcome indication from US re means which we propose adopt ensure free passage Canal. Dept suggesting that US UK and Fr replies shld be coordinated in Wash. Dept also indicated that its thinking re Israeli note still along lines views set forth Deptel 443, May 22 to NY.

ACHESON

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<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Paris, New York, Cairo, and Tel Aviv.

<sup>2</sup> Not printed, but see the circular airgram, Document 481.