

Israel view (Eban-Hart memo conv, July 31)² that new Egypt regime might pres oppy for renewed efforts obtain peace settlement.

While we fully recognize extreme sensitivity new Egyptian regime, partic Neguib and mil grp, re Pal hostilities, we believe that you should in ur discretion remind PriMin informally of our contg hope Egypt and Israel can reach understanding. We consider such understanding in interest not only of Egypt but NE as whole. Peg on which you might hang such informal statement to PriMin might be request for his reaction Ben Gurion's speech.

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said. 'We have shown our goodwill to Egypt--because it never occurred to us to exploit her quarrel with a great power by attacking her and seeking revenge.' While cautioning no reason believe peace with Egypt was any nearer now than before Naguib's coup, he welcomed Naguib's reported statement that he and friends in army had opposed Egyptian invasion Israel which PriMin described as 'undoubtedly one of the most reckless and irresponsible blunders perpetrated by the Egypt rulers'. Added that 'this transition period in Egypt is full of possibilities, both favorable and unfavorable, and we must watch the situation vigilantly'. (Telegram 286 from Tel Aviv, Aug. 19, 4 p. m.; 641.84A/8-1952)

² Document 464.

No. 472

674.84A/8-2252: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Israel (Davis) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET PRIORITY

TEL AVIV, August 22, 1952--6 p. m.

304. Embtels 191,² 286³ and last para 294.⁴ FonMin Sharett told me today he wished give background info about PriMin's statement re Egypt and at same time advise me at early stage of action IG proposed take. He said he was sure USG would appreciate need

¹ Repeated to Cairo, London, Paris, and Ankara.

² Document 466.

³ Not printed, but see footnote 2, *supra*.

⁴ Telegram 294 from Tel Aviv, Aug. 22, reported that Western news despatches concerning Ben-Gurion's speech of Aug. 18 were being closely watched in Israel. The last paragraph of the telegram included the following comment: "Emb has been informed by Fon Ministry latter has report as yet unconfirmed that Ali Maher's reaction to Ben-Gurion's statement gives reason hope Egyptian Govt has not closed door to possibility entertain proposals from LG. Belief based on reported remark in press conference that Egyptian PriMin while recommending caution acceptance news reports of Ben-Gurion's speech as accurate, said no proposal had actually been received from Israel's PriMin. The fact that this rather negative statement is regarded here as a reason for optimism is a gauge of the eagerness with which the Israel Govt wld welcome any opportunity to improve relations with Egypt. Ben-Gurion continues to believe Egypt key to any progress toward liquidation Arab-Israeli dispute." (674.84A/8-2052)