

and two, the rather sinister comment of the Israeli First Secretary in Paris that,

"His Government would be obliged in the case of no reply to announce that it had already taken this initiative in view of the interest to which the question of peace with Israel gives rise in international public opinion, especially American and English."

This latter warning of publicity will serve to reaffirm the deep-seated Egyptian suspicion of the *bona fides* of Israeli motives in seeking peace with this country. Certainly nothing could be more calculated to defeat the purpose of the Israeli Prime Minister, if indeed Mr. Ben Gurion desires peace with Egypt, than once more to give publicity to an abortive *démarche*. Furthermore, as my reference telegram indicates, the energies and attention of the Egyptian Government and people are now centered wholly upon questions of domestic reform and for this reason alone the time is inopportune to press for settlement of Egypt's outstanding difficulties with Israel.

JEFFERSON CAPPERY

No. 483

320/9-1252: Telegram

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

SECRET

TEL AVIV, September 12, 1952—3 p. m.

411. Deptel 214,² Cairo Embtel 561 to Dept.³ In view further change Egypt Govt's anti-Israel statement recently attributed to Naguib by Arab news agency despatch to effect he is critical US financial aid to this country Emb proposes continue counseling play down possibility *rapprochement* with Egypt for time being. In view Sharett's disposition discuss subj with me (see Embtel 371),⁴ matter will no doubt be brought up again. He will be encouraged in this interval find other means of confirming Israel's readiness reach agreements with neighbors.

Now that Kollek in DirGen PriMin's office and Eban is expected shortly for visit (Embtel 400),⁵ they will undoubtedly make useful

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

² See footnote 5, Document 475.

³ Not printed, but see footnote 1, *supra*.

⁴ Document 478.

⁵ In telegram 400 from Tel Aviv, Sept. 10, the Embassy stated its understanding from the Foreign Ministry that the purpose of Eban's return to Israel the following

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