

would take place without rancor and that moderation would be shown by both sides.

No. 491

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*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Officer in Charge of
Palestine-Israel-Jordan Affairs (Waller)*

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] September 22, 1952.

Subject: Visit of Ambassador Eban regarding: (1) Arab Israel Relations; (2) Defense Problems and Military Aid.

Participants: Mr. Byroade—NEA
Ambassador Eban, Israel Embassy
Minister David Goitein, Israel Embassy
Mr. Waller—NE

Ambassador Eban called at his own request on Assistant Secretary Byroade at 10:30 this morning. He was accompanied by Minister Goitein. The subjects discussed were:

1. Arab Israel Relations
2. Defense Problems and Military Aid

With regard to the first subject, Ambassador Eban started with Egypt. He said that General Naguib apparently does not wish to do anything regarding Israel that would prevent him from taking a more favorable course later on and that his failure to reply to the Israeli peace offer created a "zone of silence" which must be penetrated before any evidence of progress, or the lack of it, can be seen. (*Note: The Ambassador was apparently not aware that Egypt had replied to the Israel offer, as reported in telegram no. 451, September 17, from Tel Aviv.*)¹ He continued by saying that his government has the impression that US influence in Egypt is growing and will continue to grow; whereas the UK position will probably not get any better, and may worsen. He said that the U.S. may therefore have an opportunity to use its influence in bringing about a settlement between Egypt and Israel.

Mr. Byroade replied that we have not pressed Egypt in this regard because the Egyptians have a lot of housecleaning to do before they can think much of foreign policies; that Egypt might, however, move fast in cleaning house and in reaching an understanding with Israel. He expressed the belief that we are in a good

¹ Telegram 448 from Tel Aviv, Sept. 17, was originally numbered 451; for text, see Document 488.