

of these mutual fears wld contribute substantially to restoration of normal conditions in area.

4. Tripartite Declaration of May 25, 1950 continues to be basic tenet of US for policy concerning Near East. This fact shld be deterrent to aggression in that area.

5. USG is not aware of "resumption of mil aid by Western Powers to certain Arab states". However, shld USG furnish arms to any Near East state, it wld be primarily to enable that state to resist aggression from outside the Near East.

6. USG will continue to work toward estab of normal relations between Israel and Arab states. USG believes however that to condition aid on a "declared willingness of receiving govts to negot peace settlement with Israel" wld be most inappropriate.

To deny Arab states reasonable quantities of arms assistance wld not, in USG view, create climate which is neces prelude to US efforts to normalize conditions in NE.

7. USG wld deplore arms race between Near Eastern states and wld endeavor take precautionary measures against it. ²

BRUCE

² Ambassador Davis reported that in a meeting with the Israeli Foreign Minister on Nov. 14 he replied orally in accordance with these instructions. (Telegram 788 from Tel Aviv, Nov. 14; 680.84A/11-1452)

No. 513

786.56/11-1182: Telegram

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

SECRET

TEL AVIV, November 11, 1952—1 p. m.

.776. Embtels 409, 420 and 513. ² Israel is definitely concerned over arming of Arab countries before latter are willing move toward area peace. Israelis reason that maintenance of blockade and refusal negot settlement can only mean Arabs cling to determination destroy Israel if possible. Hence they view Arab armament as threat to their existence in present circumstances.

Altho they understand statements by Arab leaders are made largely for local polit effect and discount them accordingly, such statements are nevertheless given publicity here and tend to increase uneasiness. There have been many examples, of which latest is item in Sunday's press based apparently on monitored radio

¹ Repeated to London, Cairo, Baghdad, Beirut, and Damascus.

² Dated Sept. 11, 12, and 30, respectively; none printed.