

demilitarization zone. He confirmed that in May or June 1951 Syrian representatives had proposed division in MAC meeting and Israeli reps had refused to discuss better frontier arrangements except as part of peace treaty. Positions of both parties remained essentially unchanged through Oct 9 meeting where Taxis says Israeli reps were forbidden by their instructions to discuss division zone (para 1 Jerusalem Contel 40, Oct 11).²

Taxis believes that Dayan, Sharrett and Kollek favor discussing division with Syrians but that decision will be made by Ben Gurion who has hitherto demanded peace negotiations. Initiative is now with Israelis, and Taxis hopeful they will call MAC meeting before long to explore possibilities of division. Foregoing should be used with care to avoid prejudice to Taxis position in MAC.

The Dept may wish to point out to Eban and through him to Ben Gurion that Israel now has the opportunity for direct negotiation with Syria for which Eban indicated desire to Jernegan Oct 20 (page 3 of memo of conversation).

MOOSE

² Not printed, but see footnote 2, Document 509.

No. 515

282A 84441/11-1252: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET NIACT

CAIRO, November 12, 1952—2 p. m.

1182. Naguib asked to see me this morning to tell me that Arab League Polit Comite mtg last evening decided to delégate him to endeavor to persuade me to recommend to State Dept that US Govt counsel Bonn Govt not to ratify Israeli Agrmt. I told Naguib that I would report what he said to Wash but that I must tell him frankly that State Dept cld not so counsel Bonn Govt. He went on to say that feeling is very high indeed in Arab States as they are extremely unhappy about effect nearly a billion dolrs wld have on Israel econ. Israel they fear wld become a menace to very existence of Arab States. He said again that most Arab dcls believe that Bonn made agrmt only because of US insistence. He observed that he has prevented local press from overexploiting this.

He emphasized that in his opinion all this Israel business is extremely unfortunate just when he felt that Egypt and US were

¹ Repeated to Bonn, London, Paris (for Reinhardt), Rome (for Unger), Tel Aviv, Ankara, and the Arab capitals.