

making payment of compensation. Doubts possibility formulating one in existing state Israel finances.

I said purpose to give as much time as possible for IG to frame position. Said he wld discuss matter further.

RUSSELL

No. 524

320.2 AA/11-2152: Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Israel*¹

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PRIORITY

WASHINGTON, November 25, 1952—1:26 p. m.

538. Deptel 517² and Embtel 836.³ Fol is summary Byroade-Eban mtg NY Nov 21.

Byroade stated Dept noted trend on part responsible Arab leaders towards more realistic practical approach to Palestine problem. Pointed out refugee resettlement progress in Syria and Jordan and private admission Arab leaders that large scale repatriation impossible. Though US cld not take initiative proclaiming latter doctrine, it wld be helpful if other countries sharing this belief were to take lead in expressing their views. Emphasized inter-relationship refugee problem—repatriation—compensation. Stated wld be helpful if IG wld consider possibility limited repatriation, e.g. admitting 50,000 to 100,000 Arab farmers who cld contribute Israel economy. More especially, it was his opinion time had come for Israel, having accepted principle compensation, elaborate ways means achieving this and announce its plans. Perhaps IG cld place small percentage annual fon exchange budget in special fund pay compensation or service loan used such purpose. Move this nature very likely produce favorable Arab response and might begin movement toward peaceful settlement. Hopeful that such step by IG wld lead relaxation economic blockade, such as Israel's use Suez Canal for oil shipments with consequent reduced transportation expenses. Such advantages wld probably go far offset cost compensation. Indicated awareness Israel's econ financial difficulties but felt time had come when Israel must indicate desire and intention take steps resolve impasse with Arabs.

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

² Document 522.

³ *Supra*.