

vital to her interests. Expressed opinion that "If Israel finds self faced with *fait accompli* it will have to draw obvious conclusion that unilateral action by one side justifies unilateral action by other". During same conversation Tekoah of Foreign Ministry legal division reinforced above view with specific reference to interests of Kibbutzim on right bank of Yarmuk and Palestine electric concessions, and stressed "Israel's right to be consulted before plans for project worked out". Water problems in area, he emphasized, could only be handled on inter-state basis and Israel ready to discuss water problems directly with Arab countries on any level.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

[WASHINGTON,] January 5, 1953.

Subject: Arms Supplies for States of the Near East.

Participants: The Secretary

Ambassador Abba Eban, Israel Embassy

Mr. David Goitein, Minister, Israel Embassy

Col. Chaim Herzog, Defense Attaché, Israel Embassy

NE—Mr. Hart

NE—Mr. Waller

Ambassador Eban, accompanied by Mr. Goitein and Colonel Herzog, called on the Secretary at 4:30 today to express the concern of the Israel Government at the prospect of arms being supplied to the Arab States, particularly Egypt.

The Ambassador's statements were, in effect, a résumé of information furnished the Department during the past several weeks by members of the Israel Embassy and by the Israel Minister for Foreign Affairs to Ambassador Davis in Tel Aviv. Ambassador Eban left an *Aide-Mémoire* which covers the points made. These were:

1. The Arab States have been enabled to strengthen their armed forces beyond the scale of Israel's increase in defensive strength. Egypt, which is within easy range of Israel, has already acquired many jet-propelled aircraft from the Western Powers, while Israel has not a single aircraft of equivalent speed or power. The Ambassador recalled that the invasion of Israel in 1948 began with bombing attacks by Egyptian aircraft on the undefended city of Tel Aviv.