

hoped that the opportunity created by the Syrian willingness to negotiate some points of difference now will not be lost through continued delay in the Israeli reply. A limited frontier accord such as is now desired by Syria need not exclude the possibility of more general settlements in the future.

JAMES S. MOOSE, JR.

[Enclosure]

EXCERPT FROM MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION OF DECEMBER 29,
1952, BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MOOSE AND GENERAL SELO

General Selo ridiculed Israeli complaints about Syrian "aggressive intentions". He stated that Syria is desirous of eliminating frontier incidents with Israel, adding that he recognized the fact of Israel's continued existence and the need for Syria to accommodate its policy to that fact. He predicted peace with Israel in the course of time, provided Israel can be persuaded to abandon its provocative tactics. He described the role of "God's chosen people" as being difficult for any nation and said that Israel has hitherto been anything but a good neighbor to Syria. However, the Syrian authorities have no thought of using arms which they have, or may eventually secure, against Israel. General Selo indicated his willingness to give assurances to this effect if he could thereby be enabled to secure arms which Syria needs for its own defense.

No. 540

884A.08 TA/1-953: Telegram

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

SECRET

WASHINGTON, January 9, 1953—7:25 p. m.

660. Embtel 1064² (rptd Amman 114, Damascus 114, Beirut 151). Dept can appreciate Israel concern re Yarmuk Project in view public statements reportedly made by authorities Amman. Suggest Emb so inform Israel Govt and supply fol background.

Officers UNRWA and US have been attracted by proposal build storage dam on Yarmuk River near Maqarin Station made by TCA engineer Mills Bunger who heads Coop Water Resources Develop Dept of Jordan Govt. Dam if feasible and otherwise desirable could

¹ Repeated to Amman, Damascus, and Beirut.

² Document 537.