

Israel-Syrian meeting on demilitarized zone problems. Department hopes that abortive results October 9 meeting together with charges and counter-charges concerning responsibility for failure, different terms of reference, uncompromising attitudes, etc. are avoided. In Embassies' discretion, therefore, Tel Aviv and Damascus should express USG interest in success of talks, urge spirit of compromise and express need for settlement of demilitarized zone problems. If obtainable, Department would be most interested in terms of reference under which each side is entering discussions. ³

ACHESON

talks with Syria on demilitarized zone problems, in qbeyance since Oct 9. A new meeting was scheduled for Jan. 15. (683.84A/1-1353)

² Ambassador Moose reported on Jan. 15 that Colonel Shishikli had expressed appreciation for the U.S. Government's interest in a solution to the problems of the demilitarized zone and affirmed the sincerity of Syria in proposing division of the zone. Shishikli was reluctant to discuss the terms of reference of the Syrian members of the Mixed Armistice Commission; Moose reminded the Department that Shishikli's views on division of the demilitarized zone had been reported in telegram 345 of Nov. 6. (Telegram 490 from Damascus, Jan. 15; 683.84A/1-1553)

No. 542

683.84A/1-1653: Telegram

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

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1141. Embtels 779 ² and 902. ³ Although Deptel 679, January 14 ⁴ was not received until today, January 16, Embassy lost no opportunity express USG interest in success of talks and stress advantages settlement demilitarized zone problems. Most recent occasion was January 13 when matter was discussed with Kozlek now Director General office Prime Minister, who agreed that all possible should be done reach settlements with Arab neighbors. Later he advised that he had discussed matter with Ben Gurion, who is now taking vacation in Tiberias, and that latter was in agreement re importance of making real effort improve relations.

In presence of Director General Foreign Ministry, Walter Eytan this morning, Joseph Tekoah who attended yesterday's meeting as representative Foreign Ministry reported that meeting was convened at 11:30 a.m. at Rosh Pina where UNTSO was represented

¹ Repeated to Damascus; sent by pouch to Jerusalem, Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, and Jidda.

² Document 516.

³ Document 528.

⁴ Document 528.