

His delegation planned to seek an early meeting with Senator Lodge to discuss its new approach to ME questions, Rafael said. He expressed great satisfaction over Lodge's appointment and felt the delegation and administration were in a particularly fortunate situation to take the initiative in the Middle East. ¹

AUSTIN

¹ The Department responded on Jan. 29 as follows:

"Dept heartily supports IG idea to initiate program for peace with Arab states and hopes that this initiative can be exercised soon. Dept would like to be kept informed of particulars and progress but does not wish to become identified as cosponsor IG plans or as having approved them." (Telegram 272 to New York, Jan. 29; 684A.85/1-2953)

No. 544

683.84A/1-2153: Telegram

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

SECRET

TEL AVIV, January 21, 1953—6 p. m.

1168. Embtel 1158. ² In informal conversation with Embassy officer, General Dayan mentioned that atmosphere Israel-Syrian messages has been cordial and that he had been instructed make every effort reach agreement with Syria. Added that in his opinion nature of these meetings should not be understood "as beginning of peace negotiations for which Israel continues to hope", but rather an analogy of meeting of divorced couple for purpose clearing up troublesome aspects of separation agreement. Embassy continuing indicate US interest in satisfactory outcome present Israel-Syrian negotiations but considers above to be realistic appraisal of situation. ³

DAVIS

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

² Telegram 1158 from Tel Aviv, Jan. 20, contained a report from the Israeli Foreign Ministry on the Israel-Syria meeting of Jan. 19. (683.84A/1-2053) Ambassador Moose also conveyed a report on the meeting, observing that the scheduling of further discussions on Jan. 22 was a "hopeful sign." (683.84A/1-2153)

³ Telegram 1186 from Tel Aviv, Jan. 25, contained a report of the Jan. 22 meeting of the Syria-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission. The Embassy noted that it was continuing to "encourage every effort to reach an agreement." (683.84A/1-2553) Telegram 518 from Damascus, Jan. 26, also contained a report of the Jan. 22 meeting. (683.84A/1-2653)