

more serious military aggression. Israel motive presumed to be desire to impress western powers with undesirability of arming Arab states but Israel appears to intend to make Jordan appear responsible (see Tel Aviv's 1167, January 21).² This idea reflected in sensational article in Israel press.

Embassy assured on unimpeachable authority that Arab Legion has taken radical steps to avoid possible clashes on armistice line.

When Israelis announced that they about to denounce local commanders agreement Jordan MAC representative said that Jordan would enter into no further such agreements as they had been violated by Israel and had proved ineffective.

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² Not printed, but see footnote 3, Document 545.

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Memorandum by the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Byroade) to the Secretary of State

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] January 26, 1953.

Subject: Current United States-Lebanon Relations

Overall

Late September of 1952 saw the downfall of the nine year regime of President Bechara el Khouri through abdication, and its replacement by the reform government of President Camille Chamoun. The present cabinet consists of four men: Prime Minister Khalid Chehab, Foreign Minister Musa Mubarak, Minister of Defense Selim Haidar, Minister of Finance George Hakim. The new government, which is not expected to last long, has concentrated on reform by decree law of abuses prevalent the former regime. Elections under the new law are expected in early Spring. Overall relations with the United States Government continue to depend largely on United States actions towards Israel.

Point IV

On January 15 the Lebanese Government signed 12 more Point IV project agreements; this removed the existing impasse and signified a considerable advance over the last months of inactivity, during which proposed agreements had been delayed or shelved by the Lebanese. The Lebanese objected to the small scale aid as com-