

pump engines valued at over 200,000 pounds and some 13 kilometers of copper wire much of which would be difficult to replace or could only be replaced after considerable delay. He commented that the cattle stolen for the most part were valuable pedigreed stock which could scarcely be sold on the Jordan market without attracting official attention, and that the same would be true of such valuable equipment as irrigation pipe, electric motors and copper wire in large quantities.

Sharett did not make any reference to subject of two numbered points in reference Deptel nor did he voice any complaint about General De Ridder or the proceedings of the MAC. He said he was not ready to accuse the Jordan Government of a deliberate policy of stepping up infiltration, but expressed a strong desire to see the present deterioration in relations rectified.

Comment: Both Israel Government and IDF taking serious view of infiltration problem and would prefer diminution present tension on Israel-Jordan border. Am informed that Israel has asked Vigier to seek meeting between General Dayan and Colonel Jundi of Arab Legion in hope latter will be convinced of importance to both sides of tighter Jordan control of infiltrators. Statement by Colonel Gaon that Israel must "prepare to take active defense" believed to indicate that situation on Israel-Jordan border has once more played into the hands of the "treat 'em rough" school of thought and that there is danger of facts of reprisal which can be very damaging in their consequences. In reply to direct query concerning Israel's present attitude toward reprisals, Foreign Ministry spokesman described them as "last resort when they are only means of handling situation". *End comment.*

DAVIS

- No. 551

784A.00/1-2853: Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY

TEL AVIV, January 28, 1953—8 p. m.

1209. Embtel 1183.² In light recent developments, it is believed ME problems require some redefinition. It seems quite clear that we are confronted by something more serious than mere "Arab prejudice" toward Israel that presumably could be overcome by a

¹ Transmitted in two sections; repeated to London, Paris, Rome, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, and Jerusalem.

² Document 547.