

Above was confirmed by Lt. Colonel Gaon, Commander Israel delegate MACs, in informal conversation with Embassy officer last night. Gaon described present activities as policy of "active defense" explaining that Israel patrols had instructions to ambush armed infiltrators and not lose contact with them until they are destroyed. He commented further on complete failure of Commander's agreement to control infiltration, remarking that it was a good agreement if implemented but in circumstances it only served to tie Israel's hands. Like Foreign Minister (Embtel 1200) ⁶ he qualified his statement re official Jordan responsibility for infiltration, saying on basis item DF' interrogation of large number of infiltrators he believes only small percentage were deliberately sent as part of policy of espionage and sabotage. On other hand he agrees with Foreign Minister's view that chief encouragement is due to lack of effective action to prevent infiltration and sale of stolen property by Jordan officials, who he asserts see no threat to Jordan's interests "from organized theft and harassment of Israel". He replied to query by British Army Attachés to what UK should do, now that Jordan has invoked Anglo-Jordan treaty, by saying defense action against infiltration could solve problem.

Foreign Ministry informs Embassy that three infiltrators and one civilian returned to Israel by Jordan had been mistreated and beaten and all are hospitalized. Same source stated that Arabs in Taibe-Tira area of Israel have suffered sufficiently at hands of infiltrators to have requested IG to approve licenses for them to bear arms and have permission to post armed guards.

Embassy comment: It is believed that foregoing should be considered in light general summary contained in Erabtel 1183 ⁷ and 1209, ⁸ and that concerted effort be made to eliminate basic cause of present tension.

DAVIS

⁶ Document 550.

⁷ Document 547.

⁸ Document 551.

No. 555

974.5301/2-353: Airgram

The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Egypt

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, February 3, 1953.

A-246. Mr. Gontran de Juniac, Minister of the French Embassy in Washington and Mr. Bernard Burrows, Counselor of the British