

I recommend that action be taken in accordance with Prime Minister's request and that I be authorized to inform Prime Minister of any such action taken.

Prime Minister said that if US and UK were not able by next week to bring about a change in Israeli policy and if Israeli incursions continued he proposed to summon my British colleague, French Chargé d'Affaires and me and formally request action under tripartite declaration.

GREEN

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**No. 557**

684A.85/2-553: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Israel (Davis) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY TEL AVIV, February 5, 1953—6 p. m.

1247. Deptel 726,<sup>2</sup> Embtels 1226,<sup>3</sup> 1231,<sup>4</sup> 1240, 1246.<sup>5</sup> Foreign Minister Sharett told me this morning Cabinet under chairmanship Prime Minister Ben-Gurion had considered crisis in relations with Jordan yesterday and had decided to make following confidential comment to diplomatic representatives of US, UK and France. He stated that a "mounting tide of violence emanating from Jordan" had reached unprecedented climax in attack on main railway line February 2 when track had been mined and train wrecked near village of Eyal. He added that after the wreck attackers fired about 800 rounds on village and train.

Foreign Minister characterized this as an outrage culminating "long and continuous series, carried out by armed bands involving loss of life, robbery of property and dislocating of normal conditions". He said it was shock to public sense of safety and challenge to government and defense authorities of country.

He stated that Israel Government holds that of Jordan responsible for "negligence, connivance, or even instigation" in connection with these acts. He interpolated that Israeli authorities have what they regard as reliable information that responsible officials organized some of most serious acts perpetrated and added that in any

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<sup>1</sup> Repeated to London, Paris, Rome, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jerusalem, Ankara, Baghdad, and Jidda.

<sup>2</sup> Document 552.

<sup>3</sup> Not printed, but see footnote 3, Document 554.

<sup>4</sup> Document 554.

<sup>5</sup> Telegrams 1240 and 1246 from Tel Aviv, both dated Feb. 5, reported on the attack of Feb. 2 on the Tel Aviv-Haifa railway north of Qalqilya. (684A.85/2-553)