

664A.85/2-853. Telegram

*The Consul at Jerusalem (Tyler) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET PRIORITY JERUSALEM, February 8, 1953—2 p. m.

102. About January 28, Lt Col Gaon informed Vigier, senior UN representative here, about attack on train and highway between Tel Aviv and Haifa (Tel Aviv telegram 1224, January 30).² Israel, usually so quick to complain, made no complaint to MAC. Jan 30 edition *Jerusalem Post* reported *Herut's* article day before complaining no official communiqué published about incident and added, in reference to supply of arms to Arab states by Western powers, "Israel might still turn tables on Arab countries as quantitative advantage is still on our side". This article led Vigier to suppose *Herut* was Israeli army newspaper.

In two years here I have found UN observers lean over backwards to be fair. Although not wishing to be cynical they know if they show any prejudice they will lose jobs, which, especially to non-Americans, are exceptionally lucrative for them. They admit infiltration is frequent, but frankly they have not observed recent great increase reported by Israel (Tel Aviv telegram 1247).³ As Dr. Ralph Bunche (arrived Jerusalem February 7) observed "smuggling has been part of external history this part of world". UN personnel aware Israel's precarious economic plight and have begun confidentially to wonder if some loss by them is not from one Israeli Kibbutz to another.

They also disturbed by recent events, such as weakness Israel contention an arms depot was robbed in reply to Jordan contention Israel trying to supply arms to Mt. Scopus (Consulate General despatch 103, December 22, 1952);⁴ and Israel claim three soldiers and civilian driving teacher "accidentally" crossed no-mans-land at extremely difficult spot marked and guarded (Contel 80, January 13).⁴ With reference to recent Israel attacks on Rantis and Falama border, as military men wonder who if Israel forces in company strength, met Arab infiltrators in Israel, no wounded or dead found as evidence. While Israel generally protests to MAC over each Arab infiltration caught, wounded or killed in Israel they never before, according to UN, have made such strong protests over infil-

¹ Repeated to Amman, Tel Aviv, Cairo, Beirut, Damascus, London, Paris; sent by pouch to Ankara, Rome, Baghdad, and Jidda.

² Not printed, but see footnote 2, Document 554.

³ Document 557.

⁴ Not printed.