

his long friendship and affection for Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, whom he has known since before Israel became a state. The Ambassador would therefore understand the friendly feelings which he has towards Israel and its problems. In this context, the Under Secretary said he wished to say privately that the Israel Government does not make it easy for the US to be helpful and that our problems are complicated by military action on the part of Israel forces raiding neighboring territory and by military counteraction against Arab neighbors.

Ambassador Eban said he had not intended to present an indictment of American policy. He had, in fact, meant his remarks to show Israel's appreciation for American support in many fields. In analyzing American policies toward Israel he wished to express the hope that those policies would be carried forward still further, but that his government was particularly unhappy about US Near East defense planning.

General Smith replied that the Israel Government should weigh any dissatisfaction in this regard with the many other policies that were undoubtedly pleasing to Israel. He said he wanted to emphasize that Israel would not be disregarded in plans for a Middle East defense organization if for no other reason than because of Israel's military effectiveness.

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The Secretary of State to the United States Mission at the United Nations

TOP SECRET
PRIORITY

WASHINGTON, February 11, 1953—12:21 p. m.

296. For Lodge. Understand Eban calling on you this afternoon after visiting Under Secretary this morning. One of Eban's principal points expected allege Arab intransigence delaying Arab-Israel reconciliation. In this connection, following facts may be useful: (1) Increased tension between Israel and Arab states now confined to Jordan border where Department believes Israel shares considerable responsibility for current incidents, (2) Only other Israeli neighbors who could conceivably cause trouble are Syria and Egypt. US Government notes Syria now making two impressive moves towards removing tension from area. These are: (a) agreement with UNRWA to accept and resettle permanently 80,000 refugees within Syrian territory, and (b) cooperation with Israel and UN Mixed Armistice Commission in boundary negotiations which