

the United Nations does not contemplate any action and, according to his information, the Vatican is not interested, plans were made to move the Foreign Ministry the end of May or early June of this year. The Foreign Minister said that if he were faced with a clear-cut choice of choosing between being near his Government or being near the diplomatic missions his choice of necessity would have to be the former. He said he was not urging the United States to move its diplomatic mission to Jerusalem, although he hoped it would be done, but what the Israel Government did want was for the United States to discontinue urging Israel not to move its Foreign Ministry to Jerusalem. Mr. Byroade replied that he realized the Israel Government has a real problem; that many years from now Sharett would agree with him that the Jews had made a mistake in making Jerusalem their capital; and that he could not give him any hope that our feeling regarding the Israel Foreign Office would change.

No. 593

684A.85/4-1153: Telegram

*The Chargé in Israel (Russell) to the Department of State*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

TEL AVIV, April 11, 1953—noon.

1566. Director General Foreign Ministry Eytan raised with me yesterday morning situation on Israel-Jordan border, stating that Israel Government "seriously worried". Was strongly critical of De Ridder's refusal call emergency MAC meeting on Kfar Hess killing (Embassy telegram, 1550).² Argued that MAC agenda now clogged, that purpose of emergency meeting is enable MAC isolate serious incidents and that latest decision De Ridder bound to encourage people responsible for killing. Saw possible first indication of latter in machine gun wounding of woman and 21 year old son in same area night of April 8. He mentioned that last two incidents had

¹ Repeated to Amman and Jerusalem.

² Telegram 1550 from Tel Aviv, Apr. 8, reported details of the Israeli Government's report of the killing on the night of Apr. 5 of two 18-year-old soldiers between Kfar Hess and Tel Mond, well within Israeli territory. In a conversation with Ambassador Davis, Bendor, Director of the United States Division of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, referred to other border incidents of the last 2 months, and recalled Davis' conversation of Feb. 19 with Sharett (see telegram 1348 from Tel Aviv, Document 573). Bendor repeated that Israel would welcome advice on how to protect lives and property "without fighting back," and requested that the United States impress on Jordan the need for keeping peace and controlling infiltration. The Embassy understood that similar approaches had been made to British, French, and Turkish representatives. (684A.85/4-853)