

taken place in particularly delicate area and stated that under present circumstances Israel had no idea what, if anything, Jordan doing to stop this nor "any guaranty" same thing would not happen again. Concluded by saying that he did not know whether purpose was "merely maintain tension on border" or provoke retaliation, but hoped means could be found discourage such activity.

Comment: Fact that Israel Government despite general uneasiness over recent incidents (Embassy telegram 1562)³ has apparently replaced reprisal policy with approach to western powers is step forward. To encourage this change Department may wish again to call attention of Jordan Government to fact that our insistence that Israel not pursue policy of reprisals implies Jordan responsibility take effective measures combat infiltration. *End comment.*

RUSSELL

³ Telegram 1562 from Tel Aviv, Apr. 10, summarized Israeli press comment on the subject of recent border infiltration (684A.85/4-1053).

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684A.85/4-1453: Telegram

*The Chargé in Jordan (Lynch) to the Department of State*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

AMMAN, April 14, 1953—8 a. m.

866. Re Tel Aviv Embtels 1550,² 1560,³ 1566.⁴ Embassy concerned over tension developing in Israel over alleged deterioration of border situation. As indicated Embtel 785⁵ Arab Legion believes Israel exaggerating and falsifying specific cases of Arab infiltration for some ulterior motive. It claims border is quieter at present than at any time since the local commanders agreement was denounced by Israel last January.

Legion questions whether murder of two Israeli soldiers night April 5 was committed by Arab infiltrators. "Footprints to Jordan border" hardly considered sound evidence, particularly since Qalqilia area built up and densely populated. Support given this view by

¹ Repeated to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, London, Beirut, Damascus, and Baghdad.

² Not printed, but see footnote 2, *supra*.

³ Telegram 1560 from Tel Aviv, Apr. 10, reported that ceremonies to which members of the diplomatic corps would be invited in connection with Israel's Independence Day included a President's reception in Jerusalem and a reception at Hakiryas on Apr. 21. Chargé Russell and his British colleague agreed that they would not attend the Jerusalem reception, but Russell was inclined to send another officer of the Embassy in view of the Israeli Government's Hakiryas gesture. (884A.424/4-1053)

⁴ *Supra*.

⁵ Not printed.