

fact that MAC investigations found insufficient evidence to establish Jordanian guilt.

While Embassy realizes that conflicting views regarding border incidents are inevitable, it has found Arab Legion intelligence reports restrained and on the whole accurate in the past. Present state of publicity on border situation in Israeli press, with some articles apparently complete distortions of facts, seems follow an unpleasantly familiar pattern (Embteles 569⁶ and 594).⁷ Embassy does not believe that there is any deliberate terrorism by dispossessed Arabs. There is too much evidence to contrary. Jordan Government believed sincerely desirous peaceful border and to be making real effort curb infiltration (Embtelet 642⁸) and eliminate sources of tension. Jordan does not have anything to gain by "maintaining tension on border" or "provoking retaliation" (Tel Aviv 1566).

While Embassy does not expect Israeli armed military attacks such as occurred in January and February after similar press campaign, it is apprehensive over what may be developing. Embassy wonders whether present Israel allegations that border situation has worsened do not again aim at demonstrating Arab misuse of arms and thus inadvisability of arms aid to Arab States. Perhaps principal Israeli fear is now of United States arms aid to Egypt.

LYNCH

⁶ Not printed.

⁷ Document 548.

⁸ Document 556.

No. 595

684A.85/4-853: Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Jordan*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

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814. Ref Tel Aviv tels 1550² and 1566³ both repeated Amman as 165 and Jerusalem as 135 and 138.

1. Jerusalem should inform General Riley for his information substance of Tel Aviv tel 1566 along with comment that DeRidder's alleged refusal call emergency MAC meeting prejudices US supporting efforts to have Jordan and Israel endeavor settle disputes through UN procedures and machinery.

¹ Repeated to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

² Not printed, but see footnote 2, Document 593.

³ Document 593.