

While responsible Israel officials privately concede that certain amount of infiltration is inevitable so long as there is absence Arab-Israel peace and large numbers of refugees concentrated near Jordan border, any conspicuous amount of stealing or killing attributable to infiltrators regardless of whether statistics are higher or lower excites fears for security on part of population and places pressure on government.

Moreover from point of view Israel psychology, infiltration is one of most concrete and unnerving of numerous factors causing uneasiness here such as desperate economic situation, recent USSR developments re Israel, prospects some change in Western powers policy toward Middle East, any psychological trauma from being surrounded by peoples who are bitterly respectful [*resentful?*] toward them.

Real danger in present situation lies in possibility that incidents may get out of hand and lead to resumption of hostilities, or that Israel is living in border areas and extremists seeking troubled waters to fish in will take law into own hands and undertake extra-legal action as in mandate days.

Immediate steps that can be taken include strengthening UNTSO, encouraging Israel renew acceptance local commanders agreements with Jordan, and urging both sides strengthen such agreement by devising at high level discussions effective means of curbing infiltration. Solid improvement in situation however will require overall approach with objective of securing mutual Israel-Arab concessions and cooperation in dealing with interlocking basic problems such as refugee resettlement and compensation, water resources, et cetera for which Secretary's visit to Middle East offers best hope.

RUSSELL

No. 604

611.80/5-953

*Department of State Position Paper*¹

SECRET
STA D-1/6

[WASHINGTON, May 4, 1953.]

¹ According to a note on the cover sheet by Jeremy Blanchet of the Executive Secretariat, this paper was one of a series of position papers on regional problems in the Near East to be contained in the briefing book for the Secretary's trip to the Middle East and South Asia.

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