

ation, Jerusalem, boundaries--there is a fifth element, water, which must be considered as we approach a final settlement.

In Israel, the government intends to raise the issue with the Secretary, and the Israelis will doubtless contend that Israel's viability cannot be achieved unless Israel is free to follow her optimum plan for uses of the Jordan waters.

In Jordan, high hopes will be expressed as to the possibilities of the Yarmuk scheme, and disappointment that our surveys have not been carried out sooner.

U.S. Position

1. In discussions in Israel:

Inform the Israelis that while no commitment has been made beyond expenditures for surveys, the UNRWA, with U.S. backing, must look to the irrigation of the Jordan Valley as its major resettlement prospect. While all facts are not yet precisely determinable, suggest that it lies in Israel's interest to insure the success of this opportunity by renouncing certain of her claims to waters of the Jordan and the Yarmuk, and that as soon as further facts are available, to make detailed discussion fruitful, the Israelis will be informed.

2. As to discussions in Jordan:

Advise the Jordanians of our interest in assisting the Government of Jordan to develop the resources of the valley and that we shall continue to support the UNRWA to the extent that costs determined by engineering findings, and agreement by the government to assure a reasonable measure of refugee benefits, permit. In this context, point out that it is our hope that Jordan will rapidly enact necessary legislation to assure that the benefits of irrigation accrue to its needy people, rather than to specially privileged groups.

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¹ One of a series of papers prepared for the briefing book for the Secretary's trip to the Middle East and South Asia; see footnote 1, *supra*.