

of Israel and her neighbors. I pointed out that action of future foreshadowed in his remarks would result in greater loss of life and have more serious results than continuation to be considered separate and apart from answer to Secretary Dulles personal message to Prime Minister Ben-Gurion (Embassy telegram 1766)² which he hoped have in few days.

British Ambassador informs me Foreign Minister gave him statement similar to above.

Comment follows.

RUSSELL

² Not printed, but see footnote 1, *supra*.

No. 615

683A.85/5-2253: Telegram

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

SECRET PRIORITY

TEL AVIV, May 22, 1953—7 p. m.

1783. Embassy suggests Foreign Minister's statement (Embassy telegram 1782)² be evaluated in light of:

1. Israeli belief that Jordanese are permitting infiltration and border incidents as a deliberate tactic in effort to harass and weaken Israel.

2. More evidences Israel Government and public have been finding psychological pressure of enmity of Israel's neighbors (Embassy telegram 1708)³ and increasing concrete manifestations of perilous economy hard to bear. Israel Government may have decided better bring situation to head, realizing risks involved but prepared to take those risks, and being more or less confident that with careful engineering Israel Government would emerge in stronger position.

3. Press statements: *Hatzofeh*: "Borders must be defended permanently and effectively"; *Jerusalem Post*: "Arab Governments will do nothing constructive unless compelled by pressure of external forces"; occasional statements in Right Wing extremist press referring to Israel's ridiculous borders"; and statements by Israeli officials and other leaders in conversation that reprisals necessary.

4. Impossibility of telling what is cause and what effect recent incidents both sides of border. (Amman telegram 98 to Department.)³

5. Israel Government apprehension concerning United States policies which might emerge as result Secretary's trip. Action foreshadowed by Sharett yesterday may be gambit Israel Government

¹ Repeated to Amman, London, Paris, and Jerusalem.

² *Supra*.

³ Not printed.