

to assume initiative in forcing developments along lines its policies rather than waiting for policies emerge from Secretary's discussions.

6. Statement of respected and responsible Israeli journalist recently replying to query from French representative as to why Israeli press so actively and unanimously stirring up public on border situation. "Must understand Israel dependent for its existence first on American Jewry who in time of crisis prepared give unlimited support but who, when things calm, tend to forget about Israel; and secondly, on USG which is adversely affected by crisis psychology. It is a hard dilemma."

7. Temptation for Israel Government to use Bab El Wad incident: as laying groundwork for possible turndown of Secretary's request to Prime Minister to reinstate local commanders' agreements; to lend point to arguments which had been advanced in conversation with the Secretary concerning Israel's problems with its neighbors; to dramatize need for high level discussions on border problems.

Embassy recommends Israel Government be informed:

1. We recognize that the Israel-Jordan border situation constitutes a most serious situation and we will support steps which we regard as making a contribution to the solution of the problem.

2. We feel Secretary's trip this area offers opportunity for constructive approach to many interlocking problems of which border situation is one and that Israel Government action suggested by Foreign Minister would seriously lessen possibility success this approach.

3. United States would regard action of kind contemplated by Foreign Minister as aggression and tripartite powers would have to act accordingly.

4. United States economic and military aid policies would have to be reviewed in light of any such developments.

RUSSELL

No. 616

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The Acting Secretary of State to the Israeli Ambassador (Eban)

[WASHINGTON,] May 25, 1953.

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: Thank you for your letter of April 24 enclosing a copy of a memorandum entitled "Notes on Border Incidents Along the Israel Frontier",¹ which was the subject of your visit with Mr. Byroade April 22.

I have delayed replying pending the determination of responsibility for the April 22-24 incidents. The receipt of General Riley's

¹ Document 596.