

Wording of final paragraph Prime Minister's message (Embassy reference telegram) somewhat ambiguous. May refer to situation existing when local commander agreements terminated. General Riley yesterday afternoon in half hour private talk I had with him described that situation as follows: Israel Government insisted terms of local commander agreements be changed before it would agree to reinstating them. Jordan took position it willing to discuss changes in agreement if they reinstated but not willing be in position of being forced to agree to changes as pre-condition of reinstatement. Riley at that time urged Israel to agree to reinstate for sixty days during which time discussions could take place on possible amendments. Israel Government refused.

Yesterday afternoon at reception given by Riley at government House (after my talk with him) attended by Sharett, Eytan, Cornay and Makleff, they mentioned to him exchange of messages between Secretary and Prime Minister. He urged them to agree to a brief indeterminate reinstatement of agreements which could be followed immediately by discussion of changes in "terms adapted to present circumstances."

Director General Foreign Ministry Eytan this morning told me discussions between Makleff and Riley were continuing and that Makleff was working on "practical suggestions" for reinstating the agreements.

RUSSELL

No. 619

684A. 85/5-2653: Telegram

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

SECRET

TEL AVIV, May 26, 1953—4 p. m.

1795. Reference Embassy telegrams. 1791,² 1787,³ 1783,⁴ and 1782.⁵ Tension Israel-Jordan border remains high. Emergency meeting Israel-Jordan MAC scheduled today. Problem of border security main item of May 24 meeting Israel Cabinet at which report supposedly made on establishment special frontier police force as separate unit within Israel police force.

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

² *Supra*.

³ Document 617.

⁴ Document 615.

⁵ Document 614.