

opment proposals and phasing of plans and designs. As soon as adequate data available we intend direct intensive study rights and interests of riparian states together with possibility of incorporating Litani in regional water development scheme as suggested by Israel.

Please be sure we and our staffs will give this whole problem earnest continuing attention.

DULLES

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*Memorandum by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Jernegan) to the Secretary of State's Assistant (O'Connor)*<sup>1</sup>

CONFIDENTIAL

[WASHINGTON,] June 11, 1953.

Subject: Publicity Regarding Messages to the Prime Ministers of Jordan and Israel

Following our telephone conversation, I have consulted the Office of Near Eastern Affairs about the desirability of issuing some form of press statement to point up the signing of the "Local Commanders Agreement" between Jordan and Israel. NE recommends, and I concur, that we do not attempt to publicize this development. To do so would run the risk of bringing adverse pressure from the other Arab States, and from the people of Jordan itself, on the Jordan Government.

While the Arab States are from time to time willing to do reasonable things in their relations with Israel, they ordinarily do them only when acting alone and quietly. Experience shows that collectively the Arab States are much more intransigent than singly. In public and among themselves each Government feels obliged to be more uncompromising than the next in its attitude toward Israel.

The publicity attendant on a special message from the Secretary of State, if it were released, would probably have an additional disadvantage of implying that the agreement was negotiated under

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<sup>1</sup> Sent through the Executive Secretariat. Attached to the source text was a draft statement for the press expressing gratification at the reinstatement on June 8 of a Local Commanders' Agreement between Jordan and Israel under the auspices of the Jordan-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission. Marginal notations by O'Connor indicate that both the memorandum and the attachment were seen by Secretary Dulles.