

American pressure. I am afraid this would be so no matter how the statement or message were worded.

Even if publicity did not affect Jordanian implementation of this agreement, it might work against the execution of the next step for which we hope—the initiation of high level talks between Jordan and Israel on the border situation.

It is our present belief that as a general rule maneuvers in the ticklish Arab-Israel situation should be carried on as unobtrusively as possible.

I have consulted Mr. Byroade, who concurs in the foregoing.²

² On June 11, Dulles sent to the Prime Ministers of Jordan and Israel messages of congratulation on the reinstatement of the Local Commanders' Agreement. (Telegrams 977 to Amman and 1099 to Tel Aviv, June 11, 684A.85/6-1153; also telegrams 1899 from Tel Aviv and 1102 to Tel Aviv, June 12, 684A.85/6-1253)

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*The Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs (Hart) to the
Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery)*

TOP SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] June 15, 1953.

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

MY DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: Thank you for your letter of May 5, 1953¹ analyzing the present attitude of Egypt towards a possible peace settlement with Israel. The ideas that you advanced are strikingly similar to those put forward by Ambassador Davis in his talks at the Department. They were in accord with my fears that very little interest exists at present among the Arabs in resolving this troublesome question.

However, a recent development, if our information proves accurate, gives cause for slightly more optimism. This report was obtained by a representative of the Department most informally and confidentially from an official of the Israeli Embassy here. This source alleged Colonel Gamal Abd Al Nasir has written a letter to an unspecified Israeli addressee soliciting Israel's help in "achieving Egypt's aspirations." The letter did not discuss or raise particular issues. The communication and the Israeli reply were exchanged at Paris.

To me this is a most surprising development, particularly the fact that Nasir should put anything of this nature in writing. I

¹ Not printed.