

to move unilaterally on this issue are therefore considerably dimmed. I need hardly add, however, that a settlement of the Anglo-Egyptian dispute would afford new possibilities for an attack on the Palestine problem.

With regard to the Sinai refugee project, this was included among the projects approved by the National Production Council last January (Embassy despatch 1546, February 3, 1953).¹ We are under the impression that the primary motivation has been economic rather than political. The project may produce food for Egypt over and above the needs of refugees at no cost to the Egyptian Government except for the water that is provided.

With good wishes,
Sincerely yours,

JEFFERSON CAFFERY

¹ Not printed.

No. 630

611.84A/6-2353: Telegram

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

CONFIDENTIAL

TEL AVIV, June 23, 1953—6 p. m.

1951. Acting Director General of Foreign Ministry Comay saying he making statement at specific request of Foreign Minister Sharrett who is absent from country said yesterday he wished "confirm Israel's understanding of parts of Secretary's June 1 address² on which Israel had sought clarification in conversation between Byroade and Eban":³

(1) Phrase "area presently controlled by Israel." Israel understands not implied by this phrase it would be asked to give up some of its territory. Comay added that if no special significance attaches to phrase, "it would be happier avoid expressions creating unwarranted expectations." Referring to Secretary's reaffirmation of tripartite declaration (which was "designed strengthen existing frontiers") he said "it would be valuable to use language which would have effect of strengthening those frontiers rather than giving air of impermanence to them."

(2) Phrase "inter-related defenses." Comay said this phrase interpreted by many in Israel and elsewhere as giving endorsement to idea of support of Arab League Collective Security Pact, especially in light of UP story. Israel now understands Secretary in mind

¹ Repeated to Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Cairo, London, Baghdad, and Jidda.

² For text, see Department of State *Bulletin*, June 15, 1953, pp. 831-835.

³ See Document 622.