

try transfer as not calculated reduce area tensions and reaffirmed intention retain Emb at Tel Aviv and refrain from visits Jerusalem. Latter prohibition strongly criticized by Eban and Sharett in personal letter to Secretary as "backward step" since such visits allowed prior to transfer. (Copy Sharett letter, which not yet answered, being airpouched.)

Re (2) Dept stated US plans allocate small amount military aid available for NE on basis collective defense plan when latter has satisfactorily evolved; timing such aid would not necessarily be same for all countries and aid would be fitted to their particular roles in area defense. US will do nothing with military aid which in its estimation will harm Israel. Israel will be informed soon as possible extent economic assistance it can expect under MSP, since IG's need this information fully appreciated. Eban said he proceeding in negotiations with non-governmental organizations on assumption MSP legislation prohibits use funds to help solve Israel's "financial" (apparently referring indebtedness) problem.

Dept assured Eban matters such as divergent US and Israel views re Jerusalem transfer should not be misconstrued as indication there has been any change friendly feeling US has for Israel, for which Eban expressed gratefulness. Eban was also informed US holds as continuing objective conclusion peace between Israel and at least one perhaps two of neighboring Arab states, and that conceivably Syria might precede Egypt in this due latter's preoccupation Suez issue.

Embtel 249.<sup>5</sup> In event IG argues Byrcade did not specifically refer in Aug 19 conversation Eban to three IDF raids Aug 11, Emb should emphasize such incidents one of main reasons for US concern over border situation.

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<sup>5</sup> Not printed, but see footnote 4, Document 650.

### No. 653

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

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TEL AVIV, August 26, 1953—6 p. m.

261. Teddie Kollek, Director General Prime Minister's office, called on me at his request ostensibly to raise again (Embtels 118<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Not printed.