

(1) Division of Demilitarized Zone as step toward eventual Syro-Israeli peaceful relationship (cf. Embassy despatch 116, August 21).³

(2) Jordan-Yarmuk development plan referred to in Deptel 73, September 4.⁴

(3) Any bilateral or multilateral defense arrangements implicit in prospective aid programs for Syria.

MOOSE

³ Not printed.

⁴ Printed as telegram 316 to Beirut, Document 656.

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Memorandum of Conversation, by Theodore R. Frye of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] September 10, 1953.

Subject: Peace Feelers Between Israel and Egypt

Participants: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Principal Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary General, Department of Trusteeship and Information from non-Governing Territories

NE—Mr Hart

NE—Mr. Frye

Mr. Hart said that he had been informed that Dr. Bunche had obtained some information of interest to the Department during his visit to Cairo and Jerusalem in February. He was taking advantage of Dr. Bunche's presence in Washington (to attend the meeting of the American Political Science Association, of which he is the President) to ask him about it.

Dr. Bunche said that on his return from India and Pakistan in February 1953, he stopped in Cairo where he was extremely well-received by General Naguib and other Egyptian officials. (He had a warmer reception in Egypt than in Israel.) During a talk with Foreign Minister Fawzi, the latter indicated that there had been a number of peace feelers from Israel. ("There have been knocks on the door.") Knowing that Dr. Bunche planned to go to Jerusalem from Cairo, Dr. Fawzi indicated that Egypt was interested in the possibility of talks with the Israelis. He said that "Egypt can accept one partition but not two," meaning that Egypt can accept the existence of Israel but cannot accept being separated from other Arab States by Israel control of the Negev. He presumably meant that