

problem as liaison between Arabs and Israelis. Solution might then evolve which would permit development of water by Syria, Jordan and Israel effectively and promptly.

We cannot avoid facing Arabs with dilemma: if Arabs refuse all discussion, then they put themselves in wrong with world public opinion and it will be difficult if not impossible for U.S. to (a) exert financial or other pressure on IG to accept reasonable allocation; (b) call for continued suspension IG plans Jordan waters; or (c) continue to back development in Jordan and Syria financed by UNRWA or other funds. If Arabs agree discuss, they face obvious domestic pressure underlying whole Palestine issue. Timing of UN discussions with Arabs appears all-important, and this approach can only be successful if Arabs are prepared in advance with groundwork of factual knowledge which will support an appeal to reason. Timing obviously needs careful consideration relative to Syrian elections October 10.

Dept appreciates position taken by Amman, Damascus, and Beirut at Cairo meeting RECNE, but believes that Banat Yaacov incident gives reason request further cabled comments on best procedure. Also request cabled views Carver and Bergus.

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*The Chargé in Israel (Russell) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET NIACT

TEL AVIV, September 13, 1953—8 p. m.

316. Embassy offers following comments (Deptel 207<sup>2</sup>):

1. IG's hopes, especially re further large-scale immigration, have been firmly fixed on utilization by Israel of all of water of Jordan and part of Yarmuk. TVA plan will, therefore, encounter strong opposition on part of IG and public. Embassy feels, however, that its importance to our area objectives is so great and delay would so multiply difficulties that early action is highly desirable.

2. To help in extending to other area problems the marked unity which exists on Jerusalem, it would be desirable to advise friendly missions here prior to UNRWA submission of study to Hammarskjöld.

<sup>1</sup> Repeated priority to Damascus, Amman, and Beirut; sent by pouch to Jidda, Cairo, Baghdad, and London.

<sup>2</sup> *Supra*.