

3. An immediate question is whether, when, how, and by whom to get IG to delay further the construction on Jordan-Tiberias power project. Should we wait to see if General Bennike requests them to stop? If he should, that would take care of it. If he should decide not to, however, it might provide IG with excuse not to comply with a later request by US (although Bennike decision would presumably be on basis largely irrelevant to present problem, i.e., his decision would be on whether construction violated armistice agreement rather than on keeping things on even keel pending consideration of TVA plan). Should we wait to ascertain official reactions of Arab Governments before approaching IG? If, in response to our request IG stops now and Arab States then decline to give any consideration to plan, we might be discounted vis-à-vis Israel. On other hand, discontinuance by IG now at our request would be indication to Arabs we are capable of influencing IG action along peaceful and constructive lines. Conceivably, however, our argument with Arabs might be strengthened by sight of work in process. Arab country missions in better position evaluate these considerations.

4. In approaching Arab Governments it could be pointed out Banat Yaacov likely to be only first of series of *faits accomplis*, to serious and permanent disadvantage of Arabs, if TVA plan is not made occasion for regional study. ³

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³The Department responded on Sept. 14 that it was considering an instruction responsive to telegram 316 from Tel Aviv, Sept. 13, in the event Bennike did not decide the Israelis should stop the construction at Banat Yaacov. (Telegram 208 to Tel Aviv, Sept. 14; 683.84A322/9-1353)

No. 666

683.211/9-1453: Telegram

The Chargé in Syria (Geren) to the Department of State ¹

SECRET PRIORITY DAMASCUS, September 14, 1953—7 p. m.

90. Deptel 98 September 14. ²

1. Plan regional allocation Jordan waters may encounter additional opposition here if it first made public issue through Secretary General UN. Syrians not aware implications desk study as Israelis apparently are. Danger exists they might reject plan before

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

² Printed as telegram 207 to Tel Aviv, Document 664.