

even discuss this subject in confidence with this, or any other government in this country, because for their own protection they would feel compelled to leak it to the press and then on their own part come forth with a violently anti-American and "nobly patriotic" tirade uncompromisingly rejecting the whole project.

If Department finally decides to adopt recommendations of TVA desk study as official policy of the USG, I believe that we should not delude ourselves with the notion that because the plan is a rational one which would benefit Arab refugees or the area as a whole, that it will be acceptable or that it will advance us toward attainment of our oft-repeated objectives in area.

LYNCH

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No. 668

9521179-1654 Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Syria*<sup>1</sup>

CONFIDENTIAL WASHINGTON, September 16, 1953—2:07 p. m.

103. Syrian Ambassador called on Department officials Sept. 14 to express his Government's concern over Banat Yacoub diversion by Israel. Maintained Syria less worried about Jordan irrigation consequences than about terrain advantages accruing to Israel military through drainage Huleh swamps. Said UK and French Governments as well as UN Secretariat also being approached by Syria, in hope that Israel can be prevented from accomplishing "another *fait accompli*."

Department replied USG greatly concerned and is following Banat Yacoub developments closely. Since ISMAC responsible for demilitarized zone matters, however, USG prefers await Banat Yacoub decision expected imminently from General Bennike. Moreover, USG hopes all parties will abide by whatever decision Chairman ISMAC makes within his authority.

LOURIE

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<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and New York.