

No. 670

681.84A122/9-1953

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Israel*

SECRET

WASHINGTON, September 19, 1953—3:31 p. m.

226. FYI. Question of release economic aid figure discussed yesterday by Eban and Byroade. Eban informed that communication containing allocation figures was about to be sent him when word received here of dam construction activities in Banat Yaacov area. Byroade stated that from information available here we at loss understand purpose and intent behind this unexpected and apparently hasty move on part Israelis; that it appeared move might result in armed action. We do not as Government wish to release allocation until this matter clarified. Our position explained more in terms our concern lest timing of US assistance coincide with action on their part which might result in hostilities rather than on straight *quid pro quo* bargain basis. Nevertheless feel Eban got the point.

Advise Bennike decision earliest.

SMITH

---

 No. 671

611.84A/9-2553: Telegram

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

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY TEL AVIV, September 20, 1953—5 p. m.

338. Article in *Jerusalem Post* this morning says Eban will tell State Department next week "Israeli public opinion disturbed by various American Government acts of omission and commission, none of great importance individually, but together creating an adverse psychological climate".

*Comment:*

1. Embassy believes that while Israeli public opinion toward US has undergone some change in recent months, its present state is only what would be normally expected in face of United States necessity of: (a) Beginning taper off abnormal proportion which Israel has been getting from US aid to Near East; (b) Taking steps to

<sup>1</sup> A copy of this telegram was submitted to the Secretary as an attachment to a briefing memorandum by Byroade dated Sept. 25, in preparation for the Secretary's meeting with Ambassador Eban that day. (601.84A11/9-2553)