

funds with political issues between Israel and the Arab states, and pointed out that both countries were in the long run governed not by individuals but by public opinion. In conclusion he felt that the relations between Israel and the United States were basically on a sound foundation of public understanding.

The Secretary regretted that time did not permit his making a response to this statement of Ambassador Eban's since another engagement was pressing on his time. He said he hoped to see Mr. Eban next week for a further talk and he would make a full reply at that time. He observed that the Arabs with whom he had discussed general subjects at the United Nations had told him that they hoped for better relations with the new Administration but that it appeared that the United States was continuing to favor Israel. Mr. Eban replied that this was proof of the failure of our policy of friendship with the Arab world.

As Mr. Eban took his departure, the Secretary restated his opinion that we should withhold release of MSA funds until the issue of the Jordan waters had been further clarified.²

² This conversation was summarized in telegram 238 to Tel Aviv, Sept. 25, 7:33 p.m., repeated to Damascus, Jerusalem, London, and Paris, and sent by air pouch to Cairo, Amman, Beirut, Baghdad, Ankara, Rome, and Jidda. (683.84A322/9-2553)

No. 674

683.84A322/9-2553: Telegram

*The Chargé in Israel (Russell) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET NIACT

TEL AVIV, September 25, 1953—7 p. m.

362. Embassy comments on Embassy telegrams 355² and 356.³

[Here follows detailed comment on numbered points 7 (a) through (e) of Bennike's decision of September 23 and Sharett's reply of September 24.]

It will be seen from Tekoah's (Embassy telegram 309)⁴ and Sharett's (Embassy telegram 356) presentation of Israel's position that if

¹ Transmitted in three sections; repeated to Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Cairo, Baghdad, Jidda, London, Paris, and Jerusalem. Section 1 was to be passed to the Department of Defense.

² Telegram 355 from Tel Aviv, Sept. 25, not printed, summarized General Bennike's decision of Sept. 23 on the Israeli diversion of the Jordan River at Banat Yaacov. (683.84A322/9-2553) For the text of Bennike's decision, see U.N. doc. S/3122, Annex I.

³ Telegram 356 from Tel Aviv, Sept. 25, not printed, summarized Sharett's reply of Sept. 24 to Bennike's decision of Sept. 23. (683.84A322/9-2553) For the text of Sharett's letter of Sept. 24, see U.N. doc. S/3122, Annex II.

⁴ Document 661.