

ign Ministry." I have no reason to believe I succeeded in materially changing Prime Minister's views.

He said he intends return to office from his vacation in about 12 days.

RUSSELL

No. 683

684A.86/10-953

*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs (Hart)*¹

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] October 8, 1953.

Subject: Arab-Israel Relations: A Basic Review by the Secretary.

Participants: Mr. Abba Eban, Ambassador of Israel
Mr. Reuven Shiloah, Minister of Israel
Mr. John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State
Mr. Henry A. Byroade, Asst. Secretary, NEA
Mr. Parker T. Hart, Director, NE

This meeting was continuation of an interview between the Secretary and Ambassador Eban on September 24, at which time the Ambassador raised questions concerning basic United States-Israeli relations upon which the Secretary replied that he would have to defer comment until a later date since he was scheduled to attend another meeting.

Ambassador Eban opened the conversation by stating that Israel had made "progress" with Bennike on the Jordan diversion problem. A series of conversations had been held between Bennike and Foreign Minister Sharett and it was understood that the Israel Government was awaiting a reconsideration by Bennike of his decision. Israel had also undertaken to assure adequate water to Arab properties in the demilitarized zone and had given this assurance to Bennike and not to the Syrians since by Israel's interpretation of the Israel-Syrian armistice agreement, Israel owed no responsibility to Syria on this matter. Assistant Secretary Byroade, asking for permission to respond on this point, stated that whatever may be the conflicting interpretations of the armistice agreement, Bennike's position in the matter had been made clear. He had requested that the work stop.

¹ This memorandum was summarized in telegram 276 to Tel Aviv, Oct. 9. (611.84.V/10-953)