

No. 684

120.280/10-1153: Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in the United Kingdom*¹

TOP SECRET
PRIORITY

WASHINGTON, October 11, 1953—2:26 p. m.

1928. Eric Johnston, Chairman Advisory Board for International Development has been appointed Personal Representative of President with rank Ambassador to undertake mission to London, Paris and Near East, looking to settlement of some of the outstanding issues in Palestine.

Administrative instructions and composition party subject separate cable.

Johnston's instructions include two following tasks:

1. Secure agreement Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel to division and use waters Jordan River basin;
2. Secure agreement Jordan, Israel on plans for internationalization Jerusalem if subsequently decided by Department this should be discussed.

With regard to (1), Johnston is to attempt obtain acceptance to maximum extent feasible of TVA plan, bearing in mind importance of facilitating maximum refugee settlement in shortest possible time, and U.S. wish to assist economic development in region.

With regard to Jerusalem, no action proposed until indications received from Vatican that proposals for functional as opposed to territorial internationalization would receive widespread support in GA.

Johnston's instructions enable him make clear in NE that future level of economic and military aid, including UNRWA contributions, may be partially contingent upon attitudes adopted toward his mission. He is also authorized to bargain in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel with funds presently legislated for aid programs. He is accorded freedom use tactics he judges efficacious.

Hammaraskjold is considering tactics use in making TVA study public and we believe he proposes discuss U.K., U.S., French Delegations near future, to determine extent proposals will be supported.

For London: UK Mission to UN aware of our intentions. They advise UK ready support on technical level, but that implications

¹ Sent also to Paris priority as 1367, to Rome as 1254, to Tel Aviv as 283, to Beirut as 430, to Damascus as 127, to Cairo priority as 408, to New York as 156, and to Amman as 159; sent by pouch to Jidda and Baghdad.