

(1) Commendation of the report as an illuminating and helpful study of a very difficult problem;

(2) Indication of the interest of the major contributors in forwarding programs for the welfare of the refugees which are consonant with the welfare of all peoples dependent upon the waters of the Jordan;

(3) Appeal to the governments in the area concerned to give the report their fullest and sympathetic consideration.

No. 689

684A.68/10-1553 Telegram

*The Chargé in Jordan (Seelye) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET PRIORITY

AMMAN, October 15, 1953—5 p. m.

161. Pass Defense. London, Paris for Johnston. Foreign Minister called me urgently to his office at 3 p. m. with following latest details of Israeli armed attack on Jordan villages, Qibya (151-153),² Budros (149-152) and Shuqba (153-154) night October 14.

At 2130 hours Israeli force estimated reinforced battalions strength attacked Qibya located over mile inside Jordan, shelling village with mortar and artillery fire for between 3 and 4 hours. Demolition parties then entered village, blew up 39 houses, looted shops. Up to moment 45 Jordanian civilians (great majority of whom women and children) counted dead, 15 wounded. Quantities unused explosives found where attackers had dropped them. To prevent arrival of Arab Legion security troops from 2 neighboring villages, Israelis poured 43 mortar shells into Budros, demolishing several houses, and shelled Shuqba, located 2½ miles inside Jordan. (Embassy military attaché just returned from scene and confirms all above.)

Foreign Minister stated in strong terms he wished me convey to my government fact that HKJ views Israeli attacks with utmost gravity, that HKJ considering involving Anglo-Jordanian treaty, and that strong representations also being made to French. Foreign Minister heatedly termed attacks "acts of butchery which no government can tolerate". Although, he continued, HKJ would continue to exercise utmost restraint inasmuch as "it is Israel's intention to make Jordan retaliate", under such acts of provocation HKJ could not be expected to restrain herself for long. Then, in moment

¹ Repeated to Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Damascus, Beirut, Cairo, London, Paris, Baghdad, and Jidda.

² Parenthetical references are to map coordinates.