

Jordan waters (2) Huleh swamps (3) El Auja (4) other recent attacks across the frontier including Gaza district.

He went on to say that during last Arab League Council meeting here Jordan Government emphasized fear of Israeli attacks against Jordan frontier villages. They asked for help. Only help other Arab countries gave was subsidy of half million dinars for economic subsidies to frontier villages. (In some villages inhabitants are "starving" because they cannot cultivate their ex-properties across the frontier.)

He indicated that whole Arab world is anxiously awaiting Washington reaction.

CAFFERY

No. 693

683.44A:322/10-1753: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Syria (Moose) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET PRIORITY DAMASCUS, October 17, 1953—7 p. m.

147. Athens for Johnston. Limit distribution. Due Friday Moslem holiday unable deliver President's message² Shishakli until 11:00 a.m. October 17 (Paris Embtel 1488, October 15, 1953).³ Shishakli had already learned of mission from press (Deptel 134, October 15).⁴ He indicated little enthusiasm for proposed visit declaring in view Johnston's pro-Zionist views (Embtel 145, October 17)⁵ his ap-

¹ Repeated to London priority, Paris priority, Athens priority, Amman, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem.

² A message from President Eisenhower to President Shishakli concerning the Johnston mission to be delivered on a date specified by telegram from Johnston in advance of his arrival, was contained in telegram 133 to Damascus, Oct. 14, not printed. (120.280/10-1453) Similar messages for transmission to leaders in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel were contained in telegrams 165 to Amman, 443 to Beirut, 422 to Cairo, and 294 to Tel Aviv, all dated Oct. 14. (120.280/10-1453)

³ Telegram 1488 from Paris, Oct. 5, concerned the delivery of messages from President Eisenhower. (120.280/10-1553)

⁴ Not printed.

⁵ Telegram 145 from Damascus, Oct. 17, reported in part that a government radio official in Damascus was temporarily withholding the general release of a United Press story to the effect that Eric Johnston was a "pro-Zionist" and calling attention to his membership in the American Christian Palestine Committee. The story also reportedly contained the reaction of some Arab delegation leaders to the effect that Johnston was a "well-known pro-Zionist." The Embassy felt that if the story were not countered, public opinion might be prejudiced against the Johnston mission, thereby creating an obstacle to unbiased consideration of his proposal by the Syrian Government. (120.280/10-1753)

The Department responded on Oct. 17 in part as follows:

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