

might add we recognize that there was a right of appeal from General Bennike's decision to the Security Council, but we felt that pending the exercise of that appeal that it would have been better that the work be suspended unless General Bennike agreed that it could go on without prejudice to the interests which he thought were jeopardized on the part of Syria.

Q. Do you mean, sir, on the hydro-electric project?

A. Well, it is a dam—water diversion project, yes.

Q. Mr. Secretary, does the move by the Israeli Government to transfer its capital to Jerusalem enter into this decision in any way?

A. No, except that it seemed to provide a greater reason for taking seriously this last refusal. There was a certain cumulative effect to it, I suppose.¹

Q. Thank you, sir.

HENRY SUYDAM

¹ Department of State Press Release No. 594 of Oct. 23 contained quotations from the Secretary's responses in this press conference to questions concerning aid to Israel; for text, see Department of State *Bulletin*, Nov. 2, 1953, p. 589.

The Department on Oct. 22 authorized the Ambassadors in the Arab capitals and the Consul at Jerusalem to disclose at their discretion to the governments to which they were accredited significant portions of telegram 276 to Tel Aviv, Oct. 9 (611.84A/10-953), summarizing the Secretary's conversation with Eban. The Department suggested that the U.S. representatives also draw attention to the press release of Oct. 18 concerning the Qibya incident and to the Secretary's remarks at his press conference of Oct. 20 concerning the withholding of economic aid to Israel. (Telegram 183 to Amman, Oct. 22, 7:49 p.m., repeated to Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jidda, and Jerusalem, and for information to Tel Aviv, London, and Paris; 611.94A/10-2253)

No. 699

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*Memorandum by the Acting Secretary of State to the President*¹

SECRET

WASHINGTON, October 21, 1953.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Attention General Paul T. Carroll

Subject: Withholding Aid to Israel

¹ The memorandum was initialed by President Eisenhower.