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*Minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting of the United States Delegation
to the Eighth Regular Session of the United Nations General
Assembly, New York, October 21, 1953*

SECRET

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Ambassador Lodge opened the meeting and presented Secretary Dulles, who had been in New York to address the Herald Tribune Forum the previous evening. The Secretary, having recently returned from the Tripartite Foreign Ministers Conference in London, took the opportunity to speak about developments there concerning Trieste and Palestine. [Here follow brief remarks concerning Trieste.]

On the Israeli-Arab matter, it was necessary to bring the whole problem to a focus. It had been decided some weeks ago not to proceed with the allocation of FOA funds to Israel since those funds were designed primarily for water resource development. In view of General Bennike's decision to suspend operations of the Banat Yacoub project, it has been deemed inadvisable to release the United States funds to Israel. It had been hoped that Israelis would heed the appeal and suspend their work. Instead, the work was greatly intensified. The Secretary wanted to make clear that the decision to delay the funds took place prior to the Kibya incident.

The Secretary briefly mentioned Suez and reported an agreement had almost been reached there. He felt the talks between the Egyptians and the British ought not to break down: there was slight possibilities at that point that that would happen.

The Secretary stated that he had been following the work of the Delegation with much interest and appreciated the fine way in which the Trieste and Palestine matters had been handled in the Security Council.

1. Palestine Refugees

Mr. Taylor said that the subject for discussion was the Palestine refugee item, which would be presented in two parts by Mr. Barco and Mr. Gardiner. The former would present a summary of the different elements of the Palestine problem as a whole: the latter would present the United States position.

Mr. Barco stated that the most tragic, most urgent and most difficult element in the Palestine question had been the plight of the refugees. Almost one million of them had left their homes as a result of the war and, after the fighting had ceased, had been