

prevent this flow into the Jordan. The mere fact that the Jordan River flowed for a short distance through Israel did not give it unqualified right to the entire stream. Johnston said no objection to Israel's using her share outside Jordan watershed.

Comment: Foreign Minister's objective in discussion appeared to be to accomplish one of two things: Either for the US to compel Arabs to sit down for negotiation with them or to put the blame for failure of plan on Arabs. The possibility that direct multilateral agreement would not be required or that outside body could regulate water distribution seemingly took them completely by surprise.

Scheduled meeting this afternoon was cancelled evidently to give time to consult the Prime Minister and regroup their thinking. Meeting again 10:30 tomorrow morning.

RUSSELL

No. 713

784A.5 MSP/10-2853: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Syria*¹

SECRET NIACT WASHINGTON, October 28, 1953—7:32 p. m.

163. Department expects Arab leaders to be disappointed over fact we have released some aid to Israel. We feel it important you be in position give them our thinking which is as follows:

Economic aid contemplated during this fiscal year for Israel computed solely upon basis what US considered essential from strictly economic point of view. US convinced certain amount assistance essential to Israel in order maintain stability inside Israel, absence of which could not be other than disruptive in ME. US was about to advance its first allocation of this fiscal year to Israel when diversion project begun. Our act in withholding aid to Israel was based solely upon our desire back up UN machinery in the field. This drastic action unparalleled in US aid programs considered necessary support authority UN machinery particularly in view dangerous situation Palestine area. Removal of ban had never been tied to conditions other than conformity with UN machinery on this specific point. By the act of Israel yesterday she is now in conformity with UN on this matter. Since Israel now in step present object lesson completed and should have salutary effect. Attachment further conditions not only not warranted but might start chain of

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