

buffer. On other hand, if SC were to deal with El Aujo question in equivocal manner or against Egypt's position, it would be preferable not have any further consideration question. Egyptian delegate therefore most anxious know US intentions in order make own plans. Riad referred this connection to Ambassador Caffrey's opinion which he believed was to avoid discussion El Auja. He went on to say he hoped when US had formulated ideas as to resolution it would be possible for his delegation have early consultations with US. Hassouna, SYG Arab League, later in evening, emphasized importance he attaches to early consultations between US and Egyptian delegates on any draft resolution.

LODGE

No. 715

120.240/10-2953: Telegram

*The Chargé in Israel (Russell) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET PRIORITY

TEL AVIV, October 29, 1953—6 p. m.

545. Embtel 538 to Department.² Second meeting held at home Foreign Minister in Tel Aviv this morning. Present: Foreign Minister, Minister Finance, Minister Commerce plus Israeli water and agriculture technicians. Russell and Johnston were accompanied by Jones, Barnes, Bergus, Fried, McDaniel and several others USCAI.

Foreign Minister opened meeting by reiterating his understanding that Israel was uncommitted to give clear decision at this time. Johnston confirmed this.

Israel technicians then made lengthy statements on technical aspects of plan. Main criticisms were (1) idea of basin development contained in TVA report too dogmatic—Litani should be included; (2) not always true that gravity flow more economic than pumping; (3) there might be other alternatives to Tiberias as reservoir; (4) Israel's experience showed that southern portion Jordan valley could be irrigated with much less water than TVA report recommends.

Jones replied with able engineering counter arguments pointing up competent judgment behind recommendations of TVA report.

Johnston pointed out US was not wedded to each and every conclusion TVA report. Realized there was additional data available to Israelis on matter which we would be glad to study. We were convinced of soundness of principles behind TVA document, however, and believed acceptances those principles would represent impor-

¹ Repeated to Amman, Beirut, Cairo, and Damascus.

² Document 712.