

beyond letter and purport of Mutual Security Act, and which Israel Government could publicize to Arab world as indication ability Israel Government obtain special consideration from US, thus undermining confidence of Arabs in statements by Secretary, Stassen and Johnston. Effect on Israel Government of success in such an effort might be equally unfortunate in that it would weaken our efforts to convince Israel Government it cannot succeed in policy of aggressiveness and disregard of rights and views of other interested peoples. (Deptels 276, 319).¹

RUSSELL

¹Telegram 276, dated Oct. 9, not printed, but see footnote 1, Document 698. Telegram 319 is the same as telegram 183 to Amman, Oct. 22, not printed, but see *ibid*.

No. 730

783.5 MSP/11-1753: Telegram

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

CONFIDENTIAL

DAMASCUS, November 17, 1953.

197. President Shishakli today asked me to call and told me he approved in principle Department's suggestions re economic aid program to Syria set forth by Jernegan in conversation with Ambassador Zayn al Din September 29. Shishakli hoped Department would agree to early detailed discussions in Damascus looking to conclusion agreement for US aid on Ghab, Jezira roads and Latakia harbor project. ¹ He stressed necessity of assuring sufficient credits to carry projects to completion and indicated IBRD loans of interest only if supplemented by US economic aid. Said Syria plans secure technical advice and assistance from IBRD mission which will begin work here early 1954 planning "next state" projects, namely, Barada hydroelectric, Orontes and Khabour River development. He ignored alternative projects suggested by Zayn al Din.

Shishakli said he greatly interested in military aid and hoped have early talk this subject.

Comment follows. ²

MOOSE

¹ In telegram 222 to Damascus, Nov. 28, the Department authorized the Embassy to proceed with detailed discussions on special economic aid to Syria with respect to these projects. (783.5 MSP/11-1753)

² This conversation was discussed in detail in despatch 320 from Damascus, Nov. 17, not printed. (783.5 MSP/11-2753)

Ambassador Moose reported further in telegram 199 from Damascus, Nov. 17, 5 p.m., that Shishakli had in the conversation of that day requested him to convey to

Continued