As we read your wording, Bennike would have to take into consideration the political, economic and hydrological problems of the entire Jordan Valley area. While we do not question that the Council has the authority to direct him to consider these matters if it so desires, we believe in balance it is undesirable for him be asked to take step now.

Paragraph 12: We urge the deletion of this paragraph. It is fact, and is proper to hold, that neither party has a right of veto over actions in Demilitarized Zone or in matters of interpretation of the General Armistice Agreement. Since in any of these matters Bennike has the deciding vote it can not be held that either party has a veto. We believe it unwise and unnecessary for Council take cognizance of alleged voting rights which in fact do not exist. Our draft clearly indicates Bennike is deciding factor in Syria-Israeli disputes. This particularly evident if we accept UK wording on Israel's containing suspension of project unless authorized to contrary by COS. Further advantage of deletion would be that it avoids taking flat position against Syrian claim their consent is essential. If we must have Council take cognizance of this Israeli allegation wouldn't it be better to discuss it in our statement before Council?

SMITH

No. 751

The United States Representative at the United Nations (Lodge) to the Department of State

CONFIDENTIAL   PRIORITY   NEW YORK, December 9, 1953—2 p. m.

285. For the Secretary from Lodge. Re: Palestine in SC. This refers to telegram 281 [1] regarding Palestine.

Believe it is utterly vital that nothing that the US does on this question should allow any ground for the contention that this administration is moving away from minimum positions taken by the preceding administration. What we do in the future should and will be different, but we must not do anything which looks like trying to turn back the clock.

In this spirit I point out that the previous administration is clearly on record as favoring general development of the area which I have tried to cover in my paragraph 11 in language which

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[1] *Supra.*