

of Jerusalem would affect Jordan and Israel equally. As the radius is diminished, the effects of demilitarization tend to favor Israel more than Jordan because of the importance of Jerusalem as a center for Jordan surface communications. However, it would not seem out of the question to find a way around this difficulty, if agreement in principle were reached.

The Department finds demilitarization of the Jerusalem area an interesting idea and would welcome the opinions of addressees regarding the practical possibilities of such an arrangement. The Department has agreed to speak with the Brazilian Ambassador again in the near future and would therefore appreciate having replies from addressee posts as soon as possible.

As of further interest, a copy of a confidential British Foreign Office *Aide-Mémoire*, dated October 26, 1953, setting forth British views on the Vatican idea, is also attached.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Not printed.

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No. 754

683.84A322/12-1653

*Statement by the United States Representative at the United Nations (Lodge) Before the Security Council on December 16, 1953*<sup>1</sup>

The Security Council since October 27 has had under consideration the Syrian complaint on the diversion of the Jordan River. We have heard the representatives of Syria, Israel, Lebanon and Pakistan in a number of important statements. The United States has followed the development of the debate with intense interest. As a result, we have come to the following conclusions:

First, strict compliance with the armistice agreement entered into between Israel and Syria is of vital importance to the peace of the area and this question is intimately involved in the present case.

Second, the primary responsibility of the Security Council in this matter is to uphold that armistice agreement which it endorsed in its resolution of August 11, 1949 as superseding the truce and facilitating the transition to permanent peace. The agent of the Secu-

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<sup>1</sup> The statement was made to introduce the tripartite draft resolution (U.N. doc. S/3151) on behalf of France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This is a verbatim text as sent to the Department on Dec. 16 in telegram 279 from New York (683.84A322/12-1653); for the text as printed in the Security Council *Official Records*, see U.N. doc. S/PV.648.