

## No. 755

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*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Assistant Secretary of State  
for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Byroade)*

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] December 19, 1953.

Subject: Banat Ya'qub Resolution

Participants: The Secretary

Dr. Charles Malik—Lebanese Ambassador

Mr. Byroade—NEA

Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon called upon the Secretary at 10:00 A. M. December 19th to discuss the situation in the United Nations re the Banat Ya'qub case. <sup>1</sup>

Dr. Malik in his presentation stressed the depressed and discouraged state of mind of Arab Delegations over the manner in which the Resolution on the above subject had been handled. He felt that the Arab reaction was that their work had been in vain and that their suggested amendments had not been seriously considered. There was a feeling that in any issue involving Israel justice or truth did not prevail but that the Three Powers tried to come up with solutions which would take a political balance between the views of the Israeli and the Arabs. He made the case that all the Three Powers had to do was to support the Bennaik position, which in his opinion made quite clear that Syrian agreement must be obtained for the project in question. He stated that issues greater than the Canal project were involved and this was a fight by the Arab world to insure that the status of the Demilitarized Zone, as defined under the Armistice Agreements, could not be altered without Syrian consent.

Malik stated that the most disturbing factor to him was that he believed Russia might veto the present Three Power Resolution. He could not prove this but it seemed to him so logical that the Russians would capitalize upon Arab unhappiness with this Resolution to cast a veto and thus enhance their prestige in the Middle East. He felt this extremely dangerous and hoped we could make sufficient changes in our Resolution to forestall such a possibility.

The Secretary replied that he had come to the conclusion it was impossible to win the friendship of either side in matters of dispute between Israel and the Arab States. We are bound by a policy in which we endeavor to do what we think is just and right in such

<sup>1</sup> Lebanon submitted a draft resolution (U.N. doc. S/3152) in the Security Council on Dec. 17 as an alternative to the tripartite draft resolution (S/PV.649).