

cases. This only incurs the wrath of both sides. He reluctantly concluded that we could only win the friendship of either side if we deliberately devised policies to "hurt" the other side.

The Secretary stated that he had spent considerable time on this matter and that our draft had not been devised on a political basis. He stated that he had asked Mr. Phleger, who had great experience in legal matters involving riparian rights, to advise him on this matter. Mr. Phleger had taken the thesis, in which the Secretary concurred, that corresponds to American procedures on matters of this type. We do not believe in this country that one riparian interest can veto the use of water but that water should be useable to all in a just and fair way. When one considers the question of an Arab veto, in view of the past history in the area, he was afraid we would have to conclude that that veto would not be used in a constructive manner but used simply to hurt Israel if opportunities afforded.

The Secretary concluded that a far easier course for him to take would be bow to political pressures in this country and to agree with the segment of our people who thought that Arab friendship is impossible and therefore we might as well at least have the friendship of Israel. He had no idea of following such a course but would continue to do what he thought was right regardless of the pressures involved.

---

### No. 756

68A.95372/12-2153

*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs (Hart)*

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] December 23, 1953.

Subject: 1. The Banat Ya'qub Project.  
 2. The Secretary General's Summons to Jordan to meet with Israel under Article 12 of the General Armistice Agreement.  
 3. Egyptian Suez Canal Blockade Against Israel.

Participants: Mr. Abba Eban, Ambassador of Israel  
 Mr. Reuven Shiloah, Minister of Israel  
 Mr. Henry A. Byroade, Assistant Secretary, NEA  
 Mr. Parker T. Hart, Director, NE

1. Ambassador Eban expressed his appreciation for the helpful attitude shown by Ambassador Lodge and USUN in connection with the Tripartite Resolution. While Israel had not gained all she