

had been condemned by the Acting Mediator in 1949; by the UN Chief of Staff in 1951; by the Mixed Armistice Commission in 1951; and by the Security Council itself in September 1951. Israel now seeks international action against this long-standing abuse of law and hopes for U.S. Government support. Contrary to statements which had been bruited about Washington, Israel was not working against an Anglo-Egyptian Agreement. Israel favored such an agreement but felt that she had a right to assure herself that if it did occur, Israel's vital interests would not be adversely affected by a shift of power following British withdrawal of troops and that Israel would be protected from further Egyptian blockade in violation of the International Convention of 1888 respecting freedom of transit of the Suez Canal. Mr. Byroade replied that the Department was concerned over stories which had issued from London concerning British Zionist pressure on Parliament against an Anglo-Egyptian base agreement and the withdrawal of British troops from Egypt. Mr. Byroade did not imply that Israel was implicated in this effort but he had it direct from a British Zionist source that British Zionists had actively sought to have the UK withdraw from the negotiations with Egypt. Minister Shiloah deprecated the validity of this information. He felt sure that British Zionists had not made an effort to defeat the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations. Mr. Byroade reiterated his belief which he had previously expressed that this was a poor time to summon Egypt before the bar of world opinion. The U.S. had made repeated diplomatic representations to Egypt regarding the blockade and we would continue to do so. We felt, however, that tactically, a UN debate on this subject would injure the chances for an Anglo-Egyptian agreement and he hoped Israel would see the problem in this light.

No. 757

684.85/12-245R Telegram

The Secretary of State to the United States Mission at the United Nations

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WASHINGTON, December 26, 1953—5:04 p. m.

304. Re Palestine in SC (your telegram 313).¹ Zeineddine (Syria) called at his request this morning and gave us detailed review of Arab position. He prefers no resolution to tripartite resolution in present form. He asserts our resolution cannot be passed because it

¹ Not printed.