

country in a militarily favorable position in the event of the outbreak of hostilities between the two countries. A circle with a 50 kilometer radius drawn from Jerusalem would appear to take in the heartland of Jordan. It would include Nablus to the north, Hebron to the south, and would take in practically all of southwest Jordan. This seems rather a large proportion of Jordan. Israel too would be precluded from maintaining military installations in many of its most important areas.

The formulas advanced by Brazil for the definitive settlement of the question of the zone of Jerusalem and of peace between Jordan and Israel seem to the Embassy equally unrealistic at this time. The Embassy does not consider that it would be possible now or in the foreseeable future to establish Jerusalem and its environs as a true international zone without a resort to force of arms. Insofar as a peace treaty is concerned the views not only of Jordan but of the other Arab States have been made clear so often and so recently that comment hardly seems necessary.

For the Ambassador:  
ANDREW G. LYNCH  
*Counselor of Embassy*

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No. 760

684A.85/1-254: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Israel*<sup>1</sup>

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496. In informal conversation with Israeli Minister Shiloah today, Department Officer suggested that it would be well for Israel to avoid drastic action in response to anticipated Jordanian rejection of proposed Article 12 talks.<sup>2</sup> Suggested Israel might be well advised to accept "alternative" of discussions in MAC under Article 11. Department expressed thought that important thing is to make contact and at least open possibility of concrete progress rather than simply to score legal debating point against Jordan for violating Article 12 provisions. Pointed out our understanding that Arabs had made considerable effort to avoid being completely negative in reply to Secretary General's communication which Department felt was encouraging sign.

Shiloah said his Government had reached no decision on how to treat negative answer but he personally thought that it impossible

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jidda, and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 2, Document 738.