

No. 774

68JA.86/3-1754: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Israel*¹

CONFIDENTIAL WASHINGTON, March 17, 1954—7:40 p. m.

654. Syrian Embassy yesterday and Lebanese Embassy today have told Department their governments have information indicating Israeli military build-up near frontiers. They have further cited asserted increase in frontier incidents as evidence tending to show possible Israeli aggression intentions. State tension is increasing.

On other side, Israeli Embassy today asserted recent incidents on Egyptian, Jordanian and Syrian frontiers indicate possible Arab aggressive spirit. As supporting evidence Embassy stated Arab representatives on MACs have recently adopted unusually stiff attitude.

Department has replied informally that it has no evidence to support fears that either side plans aggressive action and specifically that it is unaware any Israel military build-up.

Request your views as to whether there is any foundation for mutually expressed fears.

DULLES

"2. *Noting* the statements made before the Council by the representatives of Egypt and Israel,

"3. *Recalling* its resolution of 1 September 1951 (S/2298/Rev.1);

"4. *Notes* with grave concern that Egypt has not complied with that resolution;

"5. *Calls upon* Egypt, in accordance with its obligations under the Charter, to comply therewith;

"6. *Considers* that, without prejudice to the provisions of the resolution of 1 September 1951, the complaint referred to in paragraph 1(b) above should in the first instance be dealt with by the Mixed Armistice Commission established under the General Armistice Agreement between Egypt and Israel." (U.N. doc. S/3188 and Corp.1)

The New Zealand draft resolution was put to the vote on Mar. 29, and received 8 votes in favor (including the United States) and 2 against (Lebanon and the Soviet Union), with 1 abstention (China). Because one of the votes was that of a permanent member, the Soviet Union, the draft resolution was not adopted.

¹ Sent also to Beirut as telegram 1045, Damascus as 380, Amman as 364, and Cairo as 1104; sent by pouch to Baghdad and Jidda.