

against background of Jordanian unwillingness (supported by Arab League) meet with Israel under Article XII Armistice Agreement despite request by UNSYG.

I was informed by diplomatic colleague last evening that there was vigorous debate in Cabinet at time of Egyptian-Syrian crises (see final paragraph Embtel 943) although following it only two Ministers voted for Lavon position of exploiting crises.

Embassy suggests consideration of some such steps as following:

- (1) Tripartite powers call on both Israel and Arab countries refrain from any military activities which would increase tension and take all possible measures prevent further violations of border; and
- (2) tripartite powers publicly urge Jordan comply with SYG's request attend Article XII or similar meeting as step toward dealing with situation which increasingly threatens security of all.

RUSSELL

No. 777

654A.26/3-1954: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Lebanon (Hare) to the Department of State*¹

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771. Foreign Minister Naccache and Director General Ammoun told me today they deeply disturbed over incidents on Syria and Jordan frontiers past few days. They understand certain Israeli officials are urging immediate action, and they fear Israel will resort to speedy retaliatory raids into Arab territory, scoring several *fait accompli* before big powers or UN exercise restraint. Accordingly, they ask us, as they have already asked the British, to urge self-control on Government of Israel.

As far as Israeli-Lebanese frontier is concerned, situation remains relatively quiet (Deptel 1045, March 17)² Lebanese military and Foreign Office sources understand Israelis are engaging in "routine maneuvers" near border and Lebanese have stationed additional detachments of observers to keep eye on situation (see Embdes 576, March 16).³ In addition, one small company been assigned as protection to coast road north of Ras Nakoura.

As Department aware, there no disposition nor ability here to pick fight with Israelis. On contrary, both on Arab boycott and Ras Nakoura traffic, there have been definite signs within past fort-

¹ Repeated to Tel Aviv, Damascus, Amman, Cairo, Baghdad, and Jidda.

² Printed as telegram 654 to Tel Aviv, Document 774.

³ Not printed.