

United States, along with the U.K. and France, would take appropriate action. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This conversation was summarized in telegram 374 to Amman, Mar. 24, repeated to Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, Jidda, Tel Aviv, and New York. The Department authorized the Missions to the Arab states to take the same line, at their discretion, with the governments to which they were accredited. (684A.86/3-2454)

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*Memorandum of Conversation, by Robert L. Burns of the Office of  
Near Eastern Affairs*

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[WASHINGTON,] March 25, 1954.

Subject: Israel Requests U.S. Action to Reduce Israel-Arab Tension

Participants: Ambassador Eban of Israel  
Mr. Shiloah, Minister of Israel  
Secretary Dulles  
NEA—Mr. Byroade  
NE—Mr. Burns

The Secretary expressed his personal regret over the Negev bus attack which the Ambassador acknowledged with appreciation.

The Ambassador said his government feels the present state of Israel-Arab relations warrants the attention of the Western powers. He referred to his January 15 call on the Secretary when he had described indications that the Arabs were not interested in maintaining the armistice. The symptoms have since been intensified: the Egyptian UN delegate's statement that regardless of SC action Egypt will continue the blockade; the 3rd Jordan refusal to attend an Article 12 meeting; Syria's "dead hand" on the Banat Ya'qub project; Iraq's detention of three Israelis.

Against this background is the Scorpion Pass incident and Israel's belief that Jordanians committed the crime. The Jordan Government is guilty since the attack originated from its territory. Israel had expected the MAC to say *something* about the incident; the prolonged MAC discussions had merely increased tension. The MAC can exist and function without Israel attendance; Israel does not wish to attend as things stand now. Since neither the MAC nor the SC has anything to say and the UNSYG has said he can pursue Article 12 no further, the SC should review the armistice and its state of disrepair at the request of the three Western powers. The Israel Government therefore formally requests that the U.S. join in bringing the matter before the SC. The discussions should not