

No. 784

684A.85/2-3154

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

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

[WASHINGTON,] March 31, 1954.

Subject: Israel-Jordan Armistice Situation

Participants: Ambassador Rifa'i of Jordan

NEA—Mr. Byroade

NE—Mr. Burns

The Ambassador said he had intended to call on the Secretary but after further consideration and discussions with his Arab colleagues had decided to call on Mr. Byroade, perhaps seeing the Secretary at a later date.

The Ambassador referred to the recent call of the Arab Ambassadors on the Secretary and said the fears then expressed over possible aggression by Israel were borne out at Nahhalin.<sup>1</sup> The Jordan Government considers the situation even more dangerous than heretofore, with tension at a peak. The Arab Legion could have but did not reciprocate the attack. However, Jordan expects the United States, as a signatory of the Tripartite Declaration, to do something about the matter. Jordan feels the United States responsible for the situation which has developed or at least for any future developments which may occur if some action is not taken. Jordan and its Arab friends are considering bringing the Nahhalin attack before the Security Council. Maybe other powers will bring the general armistice situation to the Council. Mr. Byroade said regardless of how discussion originated in the Council, it would be impossible to limit debate to one of the several aspects of the situation.

In response to Mr. Byroade's query whether the Ambassador thought Council discussion might relieve the dangerous tension, the Ambassador said in the event of SC consideration the Arabs

<sup>1</sup> On Mar. 30, the Jordanian Foreign Minister charged in a cable to the U.N. Secretary-General that Israeli armed forces had on Mar. 28 attacked the village of Nahalin, killing 9 persons and wounding 14 civilians. (U.N. doc. S/3192) On Apr. 1, the Representatives of Lebanon requested on behalf of Jordan the inclusion of the item on the Security Council's agenda for urgent consideration. (S/3195) On Apr. 5, Israel asked for urgent consideration of four complaints that Jordan had repudiated its obligations under the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement, particularly by staging an attack on a bus at Scorpion Pass on Mar. 17. (S/3196 and Add.1; S/3200) The subject was discussed at Security Council meetings 665 to 671, from Apr. 8 to May 12. (S/PV.665-671) On June 19, the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization submitted to the Secretary-General two reports concerning the Nahalin and Scorpion Pass incidents. (S/3251 and S/3252)