

tiations, will permit discussions and possible solutions to problems beyond the scope of localized border control measures.

Nevertheless, Hart and I concur in the desirability of the reinstatement of the local commanders agreements and recommend that the Department make a strong recommendation to the Israel Embassy in Washington parallel to the one which we assume the British will be making in London. In making such recommendation, Department may wish to emphasize its belief, based on careful study, its own and other qualified observers, that local commanders agreement Jordan side would be supervised Arab Legion, but should be conducted police officers both sides and that Legion concurs fully and even urges close working police contacts.

RUSSELL

No. 791

67484A/4-1064: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*¹

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY CAIRO, April 10, 1954—7 p. m.

1287. Fawzi having especially called my attention to Israeli incident of April 7 (mytel 1280) on receipt of Tel Aviv telegram 1037,² I had EmbOff communicate its substance to Loutfi of Foreign Office and Colonel Riad with request it be brought to Fawzi's attention.

Riad commented he has long feared present situation of mutual reprisals would develop but "we must and will continue do our best prevent reprisals", even if it "almost impossible stop them entirely", so as prevent development into all-out hostilities.

Re incidents in question, Riad said he was positive they were carried out by Palestinians not Egyptians. Although civilian arms taken up by Egyptians some time ago (even using trick to get maximum number disclosed) Palestinians will always find arms for reprisals. Riad recommended to previous and present Governor Gaza that arms should be given to responsible civilian heads for self-defense with severe restriction against offensive use but recommendation not accepted to date. Riad thinks his plan would reduce reprisals by strengthening civilian heads who constantly demand that Egypt protect them or else give them arms to protect themselves.

¹ Repeated to Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, London, and the Arab capitals.

² See footnote 2, Document 787.