

No. 799

681A.36/4-1774: Telegram

*The Consul at Jerusalem (Tyler) to the Department of State*¹

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160. Department telegram 90 to Jerusalem.² Israel has made much of Jordan refusal to meet under Article 12 and might be made to see some inconsistency in her own refusal to return and cooperate with MAC if formally requested to do so by Secretary General UN. Also there are some indications Israel may wish to be forced take this action (Contel 152)³ and possibly it might strengthen Sharett's position. If Israel does return easy to call meeting with Bennike as chairman to discuss improvements border machinery. This would be victory for Jordan and unfortunate in view Jordan obstinacy to honor her signature on Article 12, but Arab ability to commit suicide over some fancied point of honor one of realities of situation. However, Israel not blameless in refusing to honor UN resolutions.

Present situation more serious, but not essentially dissimilar to that existing 1953. Israel requested "high level" talks with Jordan in January 1953 (Contels 90 and 96 January 29 and February 5, 1953)⁴ and as a far too frequent indication of her manner of bringing the parties together, Israel immediately undertook brutal raids on Falama and Rantis and later occupied Arab college in Government house grounds. Naturally Jordan could not "meet" under these circumstances. High level talks finally took place June 29 (Contel 1, July 1, 1953).⁵ No mention then made of Article 12 and to suggest similar talks now to Jordan would probably fail as only subterfuge, still suggestion might be made to Jordan as a compromise between their refusal to meet under Article 12 and Israel insistence MAC incompetent to correct situation.

Also in January 1953 Israel broke off local commanders meetings and only special request of Secretary Dulles to Ben Gurion caused Israel to reinstate them. To save face Israel pretended certain new regulations were agreed upon (Contel 166, May 29, 1953).⁶

ConGen has always maintained MAC an excellent institution given sincerity both parties, and local commanders meetings best means yet devised to curb infiltration. But Israel has found weak

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

² Printed as telegram 407 to Amman, Document 796.

³ Not printed.

⁴ Neither printed.