

Riad said such meetings had been suggested many times, most recently to MAC chairman Hinkle who approved, but fact that nothing ever came of suggestions showed Israelis seek political or propaganda advantage from border situation and have no genuine desire reduce incidents. Nevertheless, Egypt always prepared cooperate immediately in any such meeting.

Israeli concept of purpose such meeting as described reference telegram was not conveyed to Riad.

CAFFERY

 No. 810

674.84A/4-2754: Telegram

*The Chargé in Israel (Russell) to the Department of State*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

TEL AVIV, April 27, 1954—1 p. m.

1114. Reference Cairo telegram 74 (1348 to Department)² and Embtel 1071 to Department (82 to Cairo).³

Foreign Ministry informed Embassy this morning:

1. Desires meet with Riad though would have no objection to Gohar or other representative also being present.
2. IG representatives will be Lt. Colonel Shalev (IDF) and Samuel Divon (recently of Israel Embassy, and currently advisor on Middle East affairs in Foreign Ministry).
3. Would prefer meeting without UN observer present but will acquiesce if Riad wishes.
4. Latest developments indicate desirability of early meeting and suggest Thursday or even Wednesday (tomorrow).
5. Suggests IG be informed through this Embassy of Riad's wishes as to time and place of rendezvous of cars and place of meeting (presumably Beersheba or Gaza).

RUSSELL

¹ Also sent to Cairo as telegram 85.

² *Supra*.

³ Document 798.