

No. 811

684A.8674-2854: Circular airgram

*The Acting Secretary of State to Certain Diplomatic and Consular Offices*¹SECRET
CA-6175

WASHINGTON, April 28, 1954.

Subject: Discussions With UK on Arab-Israeli Border Situation

The Department initiated on April 26 discussions with representatives of the British Embassy on means to bring about in the short term period improvements in the present situation on the Israel-Jordan border. The British representatives were given a copy of the attached paper which sets forth the rationale for the talks and the possible measures which might be taken. It was made clear to the British that the paper is a working level document and does not represent a firm Department position. The points given under Section III(B) were taken from the useful suggestions received from the Field to which were added thoughts developed in the Department.

The British presented a paper containing suggestions from the Foreign Office based in turn on comments from British posts. Although differing in wording and emphasis, the British proposals correspond to points 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13 of Section III(B) of the enclosure. . . .

The British informed the Department that their suggestions had been made available to the French, who expressed no objection in principle except to the provision for frontier rectification.

The objective of the present discussions is to obtain agreement between the Three Powers on measures which might be taken. Until the course of the discussions in the Security Council becomes clearer, it is not feasible to determine definitely how the proposals could be presented most effectively to the parties. Direct diplomatic action by the Three Powers in Amman-Tel Aviv could complement and support any work of the Security Council.

The Department recognizes that implementation of the various measures may involve a considerable financial outlay which, in turn, would affect the United Nations budget. Therefore, it will be necessary to consider the budgetary situation in determining which measures should be adopted and their order of priority.

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