

## No. 813

784A.00/1-2954: Telegram

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

CONFIDENTIAL

TEL AVIV, April 29, 1954—6 p. m.

1140. I saw Eytan, Director General Foreign Ministry, at King David Hotel, Jerusalem yesterday at his invitation. He said Sharett had asked him to say IG convinced United States program of arms aid to Iraq will encourage Arab bellicosity. IG realizes United States does not intend have arms used against Israel but that is intention of Iraq as shown by recent statements of its leaders. IG not sure of United States strategy but clear to IG what we are in fact doing is building fragile crust of area defense over rotten center (Israel-Arab tension) and that crust must collapse. By giving arms we are putting off day when Arabs will be willing to make settlements; are, indeed, putting premium on intransigence since Arabs see they can get arms even if they maintain war-like position toward Israel. This step by United States moreover, puts regional cooperation (e.g., water schemes) in different light and interposes obstacles to IG participation, since IG's desire to cooperate was based on present relative strengths. Does not necessarily mean complete change but must be much heart-searching. Eytan said he had seen reports United States economic aid agreement with Jordan had been drafted to leave out condition of no economic discrimination and Jamali had announced arms were being furnished without conditions attached. IG would be greatly interested to know nature of conditions, if any, under which Iraq is to receive arms.

I told Eytan I understood Israel's concern but was convinced that realistic appraisal of all factors would lead to conclusion United States program was in Israel's interest. I pointed out United States had been concerned over dangers which area faced ever since emergence post-war Soviet expansionist policies; that every effort had been made to evolve plan based on cooperation of all countries in area and many approaches toward this end were considered; that with passage of larger part of decade danger was becoming more apparent and imminent and possibility of Arab-Israel cooperation no greater; continued existence of free way of life, in which Israel has as great a stake as any, requires that whatever steps are possible be taken at this time. I said Turkish-Pakistan agreement had been a most favorable development; that while Iraq, to our common distress, had refused up to present time to move in direction of peace with Israel, at same time it was genuinely and intelligently concerned over dangers from north and prepared to take