

No. 815

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Memorandum of Conversation, by the Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs (Hart)

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] May 5, 1954.

Subject: Israel Protest Against Certain Passages of Mr. Byroade's Address of May 1; ¹ Inquiry regarding Istanbul Conference of American NEA Chiefs of Mission; Inquiry Concerning Possible U.S. Arms Aid to Arab States other than Iraq; Inquiry Concerning U.S. Official Representation in Jerusalem at President Ben Zvie's Reception on National Day.

Participants: Mr. Abba Eban, Ambassador of Israel
Mr. Reuven Shiloah, Minister of Israel
Mr. Henry A. Byroade, Asst. Secretary, NEA
Mr. Parker T. Hart, Director, NE

1. Ambassador Eban stated that on instructions of his government, he wished to express to Mr. Byroade, and later to express to the Secretary of State, the deep concern with which Israel had reacted to Mr. Byroade's May 1 speech [entitled "Facing Realities in Arab-Israel Dispute"]. ² The speech had, in fact, created "a storm of feeling" according to a telegram which the Ambassador had just received from Prime Minister Sharett. The Cabinet had met on the subject of this speech on Sunday and had concluded that it must be regarded as an official statement of United States policy. During the course of the coming week it appeared inevitable that there would be a parliamentary debate on the implications of this and other recent utterances by high officials of the U.S. Government on the subject of U.S.-Israel relations.

Ambassador Eban stated that his government considered the passage on immigration to have the most fundamental and far-reaching implications since it struck at the very basis of Israel's philosophy of existence. Furthermore, the fact that such an intimate discussion of Israel-American relations should have been delivered before a body such as the American Council for Judaism was considered to be particularly unfortunate since the Ambassador knew of no other organization in the United States which dedicated itself against Israel's existence. The main points which concerned Israel so deeply centered around the implication that Israel should change its philosophy and Statutes from the concept that its doors

¹ The text of Byroade's address of May 1 before the American Council for Judaism at Philadelphia is printed in Department of State *Bulletin*, May 10, 1954, p. 708.

² Brackets in the source text.