

No. 816

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Memorandum by the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Byroade) to the Secretary of State

[WASHINGTON,] May 5, 1954.

Knowing your schedule is so crowded with other things, I still recommend you read the attached speech of mine (Tab A),¹ delivered on May 1st, at your earliest convenience.

Needless to say, it was a cause of concern to me that it was not possible for me to go over the text with you personally. The Israeli press had so greatly distorted my Dayton speech² that I felt impelled to set the records straight even though I knew an attempt to do that would, itself, be criticized. I also felt that this situation is becoming so serious that the American people have a right to know some of the things that are behind the daily headlines of raids and border frictions.

The Israeli press has ignored everything constructive in the speech and concentrated in a bitter attack on what I said about immigration into Israel. Not a single paper there has quoted me correctly on this subject. They have officially protested to our Government amid considerable publicity. The attached article (Tab B)³ in the *New York Times* is one example. I discussed with Murphy the fact that some response was necessary and the attached (Tab C)⁴ was handed out today. This format was used as I saw no reason to attempt involving you in this matter on your first day back from Geneva.

I feel the points in the attached speech needed to be said but do not believe we can evaluate the results for perhaps a month or two. In this period of aroused comment, I think you should weigh carefully whether another speech on this subject should be made by you as suggested by the President. Such a speech could be highly beneficial here at home. My own speeches have caused, however, a minor sensation in the Middle East out of all proportion to my rank or significance. These speeches have been debated by Parliaments and Cabinets of almost every country amid great publicity. I should like to think about it some more but it may be that the traf-

¹ Not printed, but see footnote 1, *supra*.

² Regarding Byroade's speech of Apr. 9 at Dayton, see footnote 3, *supra*.

³ Not printed.

⁴ Tab C was Department of State Press Release 231, May 5, not printed, describing Eban's call on Byroade that day.