

item 1 (new chief of staff) which British do not favor raising at present.

BUTTERWORTH

No. 818

120.28075-854: Telegram

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

SECRET

TEL AVIV, May 8, 1954—5 p. m.

1170. Following comments submitted section III B Department's CA-6175, April 28.

Believe Department may desire consider whether any extensive time lag between submission proposals Amman and Israel is desirable. While initial submission Amman understandable in view Jordanian suspicions, Israeli Government, in view British special position in Jordan and recent events US-Israel relations, will tend to be extremely suspicious proposals presented only after extensive discussions Amman. Secondly, Israeli intelligence system Arab States so extensive it should be assumed that discussions Amman will soon be known to Israeli Government. Suggest, therefore, consideration advisability initial presentation proposal Amman followed by similar presentation here second or third day following. (London's telegram 4987).²

Embassy concurs in following numbered paragraphs section III B: 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13.

Following suggestions made other paragraphs:

(1) Although replacement Bennike not immediate necessity, believe Department should not abandon objective finding chief of staff with outstanding prestige, leadership and warmth of personality.

(3) Believe that the same care and criteria used selection observers as Department uses in its own selections for sensitive assignments, term of service would not have to be shortened. Residence in frontier villages for observers not practicable but it is feasible locate quarters Hadera for portion Israel-Jordan border; adequate quarters available Tiberias and soon will be Beersheba if subsequently decided to apply same approach to Syrian and Egyptian borders. In order avoid question US dominance, if American Chief of Staff ultimately selected, most if not all MAC chairmen should be other nationalities. Recommend consideration use Government House as residence Chief of Staff. This neutral territory and would

¹ Repeated to London, Paris, and Amman.

² *Supra*.