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

SECRET

[WASHINGTON,] May 13, 1954.

Subject: American-Israel Relations.

Participants: Ambassador Abba Eban of Israel  
Mr. Reuven Shiloah, Minister of Israel  
Mr. John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State  
Mr. Parker T. Hart, Director, NE

Ambassador Eban expressed his appreciation that the Secretary had spared time from very critical world problems such as Indo-China to receive him. However, because the general international situation was so serious, it seemed particularly desirable that "unnecessary quarrels" be avoided. In this connection there was a cloud over United States-Israel relations which had resulted from two main developments: (1) certain policy statements by the U.S. Government and (2) the security situation in the Near East as it relates to Israel. The Ambassador did not wish to bring personalities into this question as he had already made known the views of his government to Mr. Byroade. First among the policy statements was that given at Dayton, Ohio [Mr. Byroade's speech of April 9, 1954 before the Dayton World Affairs Council].<sup>1</sup> While this address achieved a certain balance in distributing blame for current Near Eastern tensions between the Arab states and Israel, certain phrases reverberated unfortunately in Israel, such as that which asked Israel to cease "behaving like a conqueror". Diplomatic tradition, for good reason, had made the avoidance of such phrases desirable. At the same time, the address did not advise the Arabs to avoid raiding Israel. More important in this address was the first negative reference by the U.S. Government to relations between Israel and those people throughout the rest of the world who shared her traditions. This reference wounded the feelings of millions outside Israel and hundreds of thousands within that country. A fabric of innumerable relationships has been woven by history between Jews around the world and the concept of Zion, now finally rendered tangible by the re-creation of Israel. The Ambassador felt therefore that this negative reference showed a certain lack of scholarship and of sensitivity. In any case, the Israel press had expressed a disquieting reaction using such phrases as: "U.S. Threat-

<sup>1</sup> Brackets throughout this document appear in the source text.