

Israeli position appeared to move nearer to unified plan and early insistence on Litani inclusion was dropped in latter stages of discussion. Agreement failed primarily over Israeli refusal accept division of waters based on principle valley land use. Latter part of discussion centered mostly around US proposal of (a) acceptance of general principle of allocation based on valley land use with agreement that final specific allocation would be made by neutral expert or experts based on further studies, accompanied by (b) immediate temporary allocations to various countries in rough proportions of unified plan to permit progress on construction.

Israeli Government evidenced desire not to be in position of definite turn-down of Johnston proposals but unwillingness accept magnitude limitation by Israeli Government of Jordan waters implicit in (a) above. It was agreed proposals would continue to be given consideration with view to later resumption of conversations. Johnston making more complete report.

RUSSELL

No. 839

684A.85/7-154: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Israel*¹

CONFIDENTIAL
NIACT

WASHINGTON, July 1, 1954—7:53 p. m.

1. Deliver following message Jordan (Israel) Government soonest:

US Government has been informed widespread heavy firing broke out in Jerusalem June 30² and has since continued intermittently, reportedly having been resumed even after agreement on cease fire reached at meeting Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission July 1. US Government deploras this serious outbreak violence in Holy City with attendant loss of life and urges Government Jordan (Israel) take immediate steps insure observance cease fire. US Government transmitting identical request Government Israel (Jordan).

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¹ Repeated to Amman niact, London, Paris, and Jerusalem, and by pouch to the Arab capitals and New York.

² Reports concerning the outbreak of firing in Jerusalem were contained in telegrams 1 and 3 from Jerusalem, 2 and 5 from Tel Aviv, and 1 from Amman, all dated July 1. (684A.85/7-154)