

684A.85/7-3054: Telegram

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

CONFIDENTIAL

TEL AVIV, July 30, 1954—1 p. m.

107. Deptel 862,² Jerusalem telegram 151.³ Embassy has received following note from Foreign Ministry dated July 29, Jerusalem:

"Ministry Foreign Affairs transmits following comments of IG on proposals contained in Embassy's *aide-mémoire* 19 June:

2. Government of Israel appreciates concern of US Government at security situation in border zones between Israel and Arab States and its attempt, in concert with Governments United Kingdom and France, to devise proposals for reduction of tension.

3. Government of Israel desires to assure US Government that it is ready, as always, to lend most earnest consideration to any suggestion likely to advance cause of peace and reduce tension. From prolonged unhappy experience, it is convinced that root of difficulty—and source of permanent danger—are determination of Arab world to maintain a state of war, and its relentless campaign of economic warfare and hostile propaganda and incitement, breaking out in acts of violence. Under these circumstances, efforts should be directed at removing root of trouble. Parties to armistice agreements must desist from pursuance active hostility and belligerent practices, cooperate genuinely in implementing agreed measures for strengthening border security, and adopt policy of faithful and integral fulfillment all provisions agreements.

4. Government of Israel takes it for granted that US Government continues, as before, to regard scrupulous fulfillment of armistice agreements as indispensable basis, under present conditions, of peace and stability in area. If any new effort aimed at strengthening border security is to succeed, it must be preceded by reaffirmation, on part of states concerned, of their whole-hearted resolve to adhere in future to terms of agreements in their entirety. Israel, for its part, is ready to make such reaffirmation.

5. Any proposal for improvement of inter-state security, based as it must be on armistice system, should in first instance be examined in relation to theory and practice of armistice agreements, which were concluded by direct negotiation and provide for direct contact and consultation as only means ensuring their implementation and, if necessary, their own amendment. US Government is aware that Jordan has failed to honor Article VIII of General Armistice Agreement, that it has repudiated its obligation under Article XII, and that it has, more recently, refused pledge itself to settlement its disputes with Israel by peaceful means, as enjoined by Charter of UN and implicit in General Armistice Agreement. This

¹ Repeated to London, Paris, and Amman; sent by pouch to Jerusalem.

² Not printed, but see footnote 1, Document 836.

³ Not printed.