

Eban's statement to Secretary may be way of changing Prime Minister's negative response to our request for further temporary extension of demilitarized zone work stoppage, by saying IG prepared hold up construction temporarily but not permanently as it thought US had originally requested. <sup>5</sup>

RUSSELL

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<sup>5</sup> Russell subsequently reported that in a conversation on the evening of Aug. 6 with Herzog, the Acting Head of the United States Division of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the Chargé referred to Eban's remarks to the Secretary (as reported in the Department's telegram 60 of Aug. 4). Herzog said both he and Sharett understood the Department's position perfectly and the misunderstanding must have been Eban's. (Telegram 143 from Tel Aviv, Aug. 7, 2 p. m.; 683.84A322/8-754)

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No. 853

684A.85/8-654: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Jordan* <sup>1</sup>

SECRET

WASHINGTON, August 6, 1954—7:33 p. m.

38. During informal talks here Dayan (1) emphasized importance fostering direct contact between officers two parties responsible for border security; (2) asserted prepared reinstitute "local commanders agreements" extending system to Egyptian border provided meetings held between commanders with sufficient authority actually take steps needed preserve tranquility. Dayan reluctantly agreed use of name "local commanders agreement". He suggested contact might be established first between Israel and Jordan commanders Jerusalem and Israel and Egyptian commanders Gaza strip. Hart recalled statement by Glubb Legion understanding orders enter into such arrangements.

We continue believe contacts between local commanders could contribute significantly avoidance incidents and wish encourage resumption meetings. Request views addressees re practical steps we might take. <sup>2</sup>

DULLES

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<sup>1</sup> Sent to Cairo as telegram 205, Jerusalem as 10, and Tel Aviv as 67; repeated for information to New York and by pouch to London.

<sup>2</sup> A memorandum of this conversation is in file 674.84A/8-554.