

whereby local authorities on both sides can cooperate to deal informally with problems on the spot and as they arise. Believe following points would help to make such arrangements more effective:

(1) Cooperating authorities should be civilian police rather than military. IG police likely to be less reprisal-minded than IDF and less overbearing in meetings.

(2) On Arab side, local authorities should be given greater authority to deal with specific situations without necessity of referring to higher authority which either results in no action or in delays reducing effectiveness of action.

(3) If inauguration of local arrangements could be tied in with action on tripartite proposals it would give them a context more likely to result in success though they should not be unduly delayed on that account.

(4) Right of either side to ask UNTSO use its influence with other to stop foot-dragging.

(5) If above suggestions adopted, name "local commander agreements" might be changed to one that would be more accurate, such as "local police meetings".

RUSSELL

No. 857

SSAA.85/8-1054: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Jordan (Mallory) to the Department of State*¹

SECRET

AMMAN, August 10, 1954—4 p. m.

45. Department telegram 38.² HKJ has always supported local commanders meetings as best means minimize border friction. In view intransigent statements Defense Minister Lavon re UNTSO and MAC to Israeli press correspondents as reported NEA policy report July 21, it is hoped top Israeli officials will realize importance such meetings.

Jordan stands prepared reinstitute local commanders meeting even though it suspects Israel will continue to pay them no more than lip service. US could allay Jordanian suspicions by attempting persuade Israel to give local commanders meetings a real and wholehearted try.

Re Tel Aviv telegram 147³ to Department, Embassy makes following observations:

¹ Repeated to Tel Aviv, Cairo, New York, London, and Jerusalem.

² Document 853.

³ *Supra*.