

lieved, might make Israel into a military state. If the Department could make some sort of public gesture to encourage the Israelis to feel they can still look upon the United States as a big brother, the present trend in Israel opinion could be checked.

The Under Secretary said the Secretary had been impressed with the concern felt in Israel and was considering possible means whereby that concern might be allayed. The Under Secretary did not feel Israel's fears concerning a military imbalance in the area were warranted, even though collectively the Arabs might have more pieces of military equipment than Israel. Moreover, the stabilizing influence of British troops at Suez will remain for some 20 months. There is no reason why Israel cannot receive the same treatment as regards military aid as other states in the Near East and this is, in fact, under active consideration. *

The Under Secretary concluded that the history and nature of the relationship between the United States and Israel, including the United States' role in the creation of the state, is not one which indicates the United States would sit back and permit Israel to be destroyed; the United States had made this clear many times in many ways.

On leaving, Rabbi Silver said he was very much encouraged as a result of his discussion with the Under Secretary.

* The Under Secretary here was referring to recent statements made to Ambassador Eban by the Secretary that, under certain conditions, the United States would be willing to consider military aid for Israel. [Footnote in the source text.]

No. 863

67164A 8-1854 Telegram

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

SECRET

TEL AVIV, August 18, 1954—6 p. m.

179. Line of thought I advanced with Prime Minister (Embtel 150)¹ and have been pressing upon others as occasion offered seems to be receiving serious examination. Difficult to estimate which of three general attitudes currently being taken will emerge as official position:

(1) Foreign Ministry, while it decries Egyptian development, feels nevertheless situation might be made to offer prospect of improvement in Israel-Arab relations; that at least IG should not put itself in position of blocking US effort to induce Egypt take steps toward normalizing its relations with Israel. Varying degrees of skepti-

¹ Document 858.