

provised action. If we intend making a policy change, we should re-study our whole relationship with the Near East, not only with the Arabs and Israel, but others as well. Then we must prepare the ground with all concerned. By so doing the conclusion of security treaties with both Israel and the Arab States might work out satisfactorily, but the job should be approached as a whole and adequate time and preparation allowed. A quick decision involving Israel only would certainly present a relations problem with the Arab States of the most difficult and ominous sort. Not infrequently we undertake, and with good reason, to chide the Arabs for being obsessed by the secondary problem of Israel and forgetting the major Soviet threat. Similarly, it is suggested that we should eschew making a policy decision on one aspect of the Near East which could prejudice larger considerations in the area as a whole.

In conclusion, I would venture reiterate recommendation in Embassy telegram 171 that, having adopted the policy of impartiality and having seen it produce results, we should do our best to remain on that good road. In so recommending I realize full well the difficulties currently confronting the Department. On the other hand I also foresee that deviation from that policy for short term reasons would do grievous injury to the prestige and confidence which has been painstakingly built up during the past year and a half.

HARE

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No. 871

674.84A/8-2454: Telegram

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

SECRET

TEL AVIV, August 24, 1954—7 p. m.

196. At luncheon, at his invitation, this noon Jerusalem with Gideon Rafael, adviser to Foreign Ministry on Middle East affairs, he said:

(1) While division of counsel within IG, he feels there is chance of convincing Foreign Policy Committee of Knesset, which is meeting tomorrow to hear him and Eban, that present moment offers opportunity for moving in direction of area peace.

(2) Three times in past year representative of responsible Egyptian official had contacted him and asked that IG use its influence in US to obtain our help in getting Suez base settlement and promise of economic aid to Egypt (6); IG attempted utilize this bargaining position to obtain promise of Egyptian move toward peace; last such meeting took place in Europe in June, but came to nought when base agreement announced.

(3) Program Rafael was urging upon Egyptian representative included: free passage through Suez Canal, cessation official belliger-