

Numbered parts one and two reference telegram. There is real danger in US taking action alone as we could quickly find ourselves being played off against UK which has mutual defense treaty with Jordan. It is very doubtful if US treaties could be arranged with Jordan and Syria and having one with Israel would put the US-UK against one another more surely than the fathers of two belligerent brats. I would suggest that assurances to Israel could best come from UK or at most US-UK jointly.

Re point 1 believe an exchange of notes with Israel and each and all Arab states simultaneously would be least damaging.

On point 2 do not believe a treaty with Arabs possible without wide preparation and one with Israelis alone could prove disastrous.

From this admittedly somewhat isolated part of the world it looks as though we were being pressured by a sales campaign of those who may be captured by their own propaganda.

MALLORY

No. 873

684A.8618-2554: Telegram

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

TOP SECRET

TEL AVIV, August 25, 1954—5 p. m.

201. Department circular telegram 108.² Embassy believes achievement of US goals of security and relaxation of tension in area requires some form of assurance to Israel. This need results from:

- (1) Fact that plans for defense of free world in area cannot realistically be based on formula of equating Arab and Israel strength;
- (2) Israel's vulnerability to sudden attack due to its size, shape and relative manpower; and
- (3) Reiterated Arab intention to obliterate State of Israel. Unless Israel has some assurance that arms in hands of Arabs will not endanger her, there will be growth in extremist sentiment here with consequent threat to peace.

Embassy believes, however, there are serious defects in connection with both alternatives mentioned Department circular telegram 108. Exchange of notes which gave no promise of military assistance in event of attack would fail to give necessary senses of

¹ Repeated to Cairo, Amman, Damascus, Beirut, Jidda, London, Jerusalem, and Baghdad.

² Document 867.