

militarized zone on Banat Ya'qub diversion canal. We had told the Israelis that they were estopped from resuming such activity without permission of the Chief of Staff of the UNTSO. We had also pointed out that the psychological impact of such a resumption would be extremely unfortunate and might well seriously lessen the chances for the acceptance by the riparian states of proposals for an equitable division of the waters of the Jordan Valley.

Ambassador Malik inquired as to the present thinking about the Tripartite Declaration of 1950. Was there a prospect that Turkey would adhere to it? Was the United States considering making a strong restatement of the Declaration?

Mr. Jernegan replied that we had been giving thought to the Declaration but there were no developments worth mentioning. It seemed clear that the Arab states would oppose Turkish adherence to the Pact. A mere restatement of the Declaration seemed to offer little advantage. Both the Secretary and Mr. Eden had taken occasion to reaffirm our support for the Declaration. We were presently considering ways and means of giving greater assurance to both the Arab states and Israel against the possibility of local aggression.

No. 881

611.80/9-164: Circular Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to Certain Diplomatic Missions*¹

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, September 1, 1954—6:30 p. m.

125. After considering field comments on Depcirtel 108² we now contemplate possible delivery to Israel and later publication of statement on US Near East policy given below. Similar statements could be given individual Arab states. We believe UK and Turkey may wish make parallel statements or associate themselves with ours but matter should not be discussed with them this stage.

Statement sets forth policies US now following NE as endorsed in general both at Istanbul conference and subsequently by missions in field. It intended meet to extent permitted by our constitutional processes any legitimate Israel fears of Arab attack. While possibility military aid to Israel mentioned in context of area defense arrangements no commitment made to maintain balance between Israel and Arab states.

¹ Sent to Amman, Ankara, Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jidda, London, Paris, Tel Aviv, and Tehran.

² Document 867.