

marche before then and one which followed too closely would be unwise. Both US and Jordan will hold elections soon. General Burns has suggestions to make and according newspapers September 22 Britain good offices are available to facilitate "direct or indirect" talks between parties. Next *démarche* should be made only after result of General Burns and British approaches known.

Comment: HKJ supports UNTSO machinery and will not go beyond it, if ever, until Israel cooperates in UNTSO. Once Israel back in MAC, next *démarche* needs present specific objectives and have teeth for enforcement. US aid should figure largely as instrument. Reference telegram full and even increased performance by UNTSO necessary. Any legalistic circumscription by Israel on such grounds as supposed infringement sovereignty defeats our purposes.

Most fruitful course would appear informing Israelis our continued support and friendship will be strictly conditioned upon their achieving requisites peace on border. Once done we can probably later move Arabs to discussions especially through Jordan and Egypt.

MALLORY

No. 899

984A 7/9-2554: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*¹

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY CAIRO, September 28, 1954—4 p. m.

420. Egyptian Minister Foreign Affairs told me few minutes ago he had had somewhat confused notices of a "little incident" at southern mouth of Suez Canal. According to his reports an Israeli boat of about 100 tons, flying Israeli flag, approached southern entrance of Canal and when questioned apparently within Egyptian territorial waters, fired on Egyptians. Thereupon Egyptians had taken boat into custody.

Fawzi indicated that if this is confirmed they will bring it to attention of Security Council but will not press for any action.

He added, "I remind you that for about a year we have been very lenient indeed about shipments for Israel passing through the Canal."²

CAFFERY

¹ Repeated to London, Tel Aviv, and the Arab capitals.

² In a letter to the Security Council of Sept. 28, Israel charged that the SS *Bat Galim*, flying the Israeli flag and bound for Haifa, had been seized by the Egyptian

Continued