

No. 902

674.84A/10-154: Telegram

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CAIRO, October 4, 1954—2 p. m.

451. I fully concur with four points Russell made to Eytan (Tel Aviv telegram 306)² re Gaza Strip border situation. Following comments refer to his four points:

1. All incidents of which Israel complains are in category of private marauding. For example, at emergency meeting October 2, Egypt condemned in case of two Israelis killed September 25 (Tel Aviv telegram 298)³ and Chairman abstained in case of tractor driver shot in hand (Tel Aviv telegram 281)³ whereas Israel condemned for mortar fire, on September 28, on Egyptian military post.

2. Egypt not only talks about desiring control infiltration but takes helpful unilateral action such as withdrawal Palestinian battalion from front positions and imposition curfew in Strip.

3. Egypt allows UN observers move about freely anywhere in Strip even after curfew and with or without accompanying Egyptians. Only control is requirement permission enter or leave Strip after dark which permission readily and speedily granted.

4. According to her and Embassy's own impression number of incidents along DL recently actually less than average.

Egyptians believe Israelis seeking inflate normal incidents in Gaza area with object discrediting Egypt in connection Suez base settlement and US aid negotiations.

CAFFERY

¹ Repeated to Tel Aviv, Amman, and Jerusalem.

² Document 900.

³ Not printed.

No. 903

984A.59/10-154: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Egypt*¹

CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON, October 4, 1954—6:57 p. m.

541. Eban his request called Murphy Oct. 1.² Recounted events surrounding detention *Bat Galim* at Suez by Egyptians. Formally

¹ Repeated to Tel Aviv, London, Paris, and Damascus; sent by pouch to Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Jidda, Port Said, and New York.

² The memorandum of this conversation is in file 674.84A/10-154.