

## No. 912

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*The Ambassador in Israel (Lawson) to the Department of State*<sup>1</sup>

SECRET

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398. Eytan, Director General Foreign Ministry, called last night on Russell, saying he had come on instructions from Sharett, who planned to take up today same problem with new British Ambassador upon latter's call to present copies letter of credence.

Eytan said that IG for some time had followed moderate policy on Egyptian border in pursuance US recommendation that IG follow policy of restraint. Egyptian activities on the border, however, have been increasing in spite of IG moderate attitude and were rising to a "crescendo". These have culminated Monday evening in blowing up two houses belonging to Kurdish Jews. Fortunately, houses at moment were unoccupied. If they had been occupied there would have been large number of casualties and the "fat would have been in the fire". IG is convinced that activities are GOE-inspired and directed because: (1) IG has it indirectly on authority of high Egyptian Government official that GOE believes it can act with impunity along the border; (2) infiltrator recently captured by Israelis proved to be Sudanese, who under interrogation said he and others had been recruited and trained by Egyptian intelligence officers for sabotage activities along the border.

Eytan closed this subject by saying that Sharett wanted us to know that his position (moderation) was becoming very difficult under the circumstances of Egyptian activity on Israel side of the border. Eytan requested that the Department, through American Embassy Cairo, take measures, more forcefully than in the past, to obtain abandonment by GOE of their infiltration practices.

Tekoah, charge armistice affairs Foreign Ministry, elaborated today to Embassy counselor reasons IG conviction recent incidents GOE-inspired and directed. He said conclusion based:

(a) Planned sabotage character of incidents, i.e., blowing up pipeline three times in six weeks (actually eleven weeks), destruction bridge near Eilath when only Egyptians vicinity were in army camps;

(b) Reliable evidence provided by number of captured infiltrators in course examination and trial in which they claimed their recruitment, training and supervision was by Egyptian intelligence officers.

<sup>1</sup> Repeated to Cairo and Jerusalem.