

Embassy comments: In Embassy's judgment, the character and number of important incidents within IG territory along Gaza border recently makes it improbable, irrespective of which party is more responsible for basic border tension, that IG will long refrain from organized retaliatory action unless there is a marked diminution such activity. Eytan's message from Sharett may be taken as meaning that IDF elements are pressing for greater freedom of action in dealing with Gaza border problem.

Eytan left summary recent incidents Egyptian border which will be transmitted Department. Important incidents listed were those reported Embtels 238, 251, 298 and Weekas 36, 38, and 43.²

LAWSON

² None printed. Ambassador Caffery reported as follows on Nov. 6:

"I brought to attention of Minister Foreign Affairs the matter in Tel Aviv's telegram 398 Nov. 3. The Minister said that he could assure me that if anything of the kind is going on it is without the knowledge of responsible Egyptian authorities. He will take up the matter with Prime Minister, Ministers of War and Interior to ascertain if there is any truth in the Israeli allegations. He does not believe that they are true. If they are true, corrective steps must be taken at once." (Telegram 617 from Cairo, Nov. 6, 3 p. m.; 674.84A/11-654)

No. 913

974.5301/11-454: Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the United States Mission at the United Nations*¹

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WASHINGTON, November 4, 1954—7:19 p. m.

241. We believe that continued debate in SC of Egyptian restrictions on Suez Canal traffic will only exacerbate situation NE without producing practical results. Israel appears intent on pressing issue in SC and Egypt on resisting pressures from SC.

To break stalemate we believe SC might adopt resolution referring question legality continuing Egyptian restrictions to ICJ thus forestalling further SC debate until opinion rendered on grounds matter *sub judice*. At same time SC could note Azmi October 14 statement that Egypt "has refrained from any interference with vessels conveying goods to Israel or coming from Israel ports and passing through Suez Canal". Although probably not intended by Azmi to encompass Israel flag ships, policy enunciated if carried out would remove in practice large part of burden of restrictions on Israel. Formal note of policy by SC would tend to insure its imple-

¹ Repeated to Cairo, Tel Aviv, London, and Paris.