

No. 914

074.84A/11-554: Telegram

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

CONFIDENTIAL

WASHINGTON, November 5, 1954—5:37 p. m.

705. Tel Aviv's 398.² Caffery requested make following representations to Fawzi:

US seriously concerned series incidents Gaza area for which Egypt censured by MAC several recent occasions. Israel has claimed to US pattern of incidents implicates GOE and that she amassing "evidence" from apprehended infiltrators. While US does not accept Israeli thesis re GOE involvement US does believe GOE responsible for bringing to end incidents instigated by persons from area under Egyptian control. Failure do so invites retaliation by Israel and chain reaction which US sure Egypt wishes avoid. Although removal Palestine Battalion from front lines (Cairo's 165)³ and Gaza curfew (Cairo's 371)³ constructive measures they apparently insufficient control situation, US thinks RCC will wish review carefully regulations now in effect and adopt whatever further measures necessary to establish security. RCC may wish to investigate particularly whether anti-regime groups attempting cause government difficulties by operations Gaza area. US suggests again working out through UNTSO cooperative control arrangements between local police or army commanders both sides (Deptel 240 to Cairo).⁴

Tel Aviv requested advise GOI above *démarche* omitting mention curfew or movement Palestine Battalion. Should add that as frequently stressed in past US unalterably opposed to policy of reprisals for which Israel censured by SC and would like assurances GOI not planning adopt such tactics Gaza strip. Abstention from reprisals on Jordan border has produced improved results. As constructive measure US again suggests working out through UNTSO cooperative control arrangements between local police or army officers both sides.

Jerusalem requested inform Burns both approaches expressing US hope local control arrangements may be worked out. US would welcome his assessment possibility Israel retaliation Gaza.

DULLES

¹ Sent also to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem; repeated to London and New York by pouch.

² Document 912.

³ Not printed.

⁴ Document 860.