

steps clearing away underbrush of immediate problems concentrating on:

1. Gaza situation as previously discussed;

2. Freedom of transit Suez Canal. US encouraged by Azmi's statement in Security Council Oct 14 that since Mar 1954 Egypt has refrained from interference shipping through Canal to or from Israel.³ We wish cooperate GOE find formula enabling it remove remaining restrictions and avoiding continued public dispute. Recommend to GOE consideration of a Security Council resolution requesting advisory opinion on freedom of transit issue from International Court Justice in whose legal decisions world public has full confidence. Egypt itself might wish make proposal in Security Council and reiterate statement re its present policy. Alternatively some member Security Council could introduce resolution. FYI: See Deptel 241 to USUN rptd Cairo 698 Tel Aviv 247⁴ for proposed text resolution, which should not be disclosed to Egyptians this time. End FYI.

Security Council could then note Egyptian statement on non-interference and refer all legal points involved to ICJ. FYI: We plan discuss this point orally with Hussein here after approach Cairo. End FYI.

3. Jerusalem. Urge again Egypt seek moderation in Arab attitude and emphasize US position in support of UN's primary role in determining future status remains unchanged.

DULLES

pressed an interest in practical steps that might be taken with regard to Palestine: both at present and in the future, including more cooperation and exchange of goodwill. (611.74/11-1154)

³ See U.N. doc. S/PV.682.

⁴ Document 913.

No. 920

NEA files, lot 59 D 518, "Alpha—Memoes, etc., beginning after 2nd London Talks—April 26—June 30, '56"

Aide-Mémoire From the Department of State to the British Embassy

SECRET

WASHINGTON, November 17, 1954.

The Department of State welcomes the suggestion of Sir Anthony Eden that the United States and United Kingdom renew efforts to develop policies designed to ease Arab-Israel tensions and bring about a lasting settlement. The entire problem, which is giving the Department of State constant concern despite some general improvement of conditions in the area, is under active study here and