

the Department of State looks forward to a comprehensive discussion with the Foreign Office. The Department of State would prefer to hold the talks immediately after the New Year,¹ which would facilitate completion of its review, and it would be agreeable to sending officers to London for the purpose. The mechanism which should be used to carry out the project could be determined during the consultations in London.

The Department of State does not believe it necessary to advise other countries of the plans at this stage. Eventually, it may prove useful to keep both the French and Turks generally informed, and perhaps to solicit their assistance in connection with certain aspects of the undertaking.

¹ At this point in the source text, an unknown hand inserted brackets around the phrase "immediately after the New Year," and substituted the phrase: "about the middle of January, 1955".

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Memorandum by the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Byroade) to the Secretary of State

SECRET

WASHINGTON, November 22, 1954.

Subject: The Arab-Israel Problem—Situation Report.

We are giving top priority to the preparation of a suggested across-the-board approach for a settlement of the Palestine question. We are aiming at talks with the British with a view to arriving at an agreed plan of action early in the new year. A firm joint position will not emerge until after the holidays.

As to the current situation in the area, I think we can safely say that things are not as bad as they look. In fact, there is a glimmer of hope here and there in the total picture.

There seems to be a little more calmness of attitude on the part of the Israelis. For one thing, it appears that the Israel Government is embarrassed and abashed at the proportions and nature of the pre-election campaign against our policies. There has been limited public recognition in Israel of the fact that Israel's relations with the U.S. cannot always be determined by efforts made on the American domestic political scene. It is becoming clear that Israel now realizes the necessity of accepting a division of the waters of the Jordan along the lines of the Unified Plan. There has been no large-scale Israel raid into Arab territory since September 3 and