

ists. . . ." Earlier in 1954 Saud met with five Christians and one Moslem, members of the Moral Re-Armament movement, and disclosed a strong interest in the program which stresses moral values and de-emphasizes materialism. By turning first to the Jerusalem problem and placing stress on its spiritual aspects, it may be possible to enlist Saud's support for cooperation between Moslems and Christians first in the solution of that problem and, eventually, in the solution of the major problem of Palestine.

Conclusion

The above clearly shows the Saudi leaders' deep feeling of antagonism toward Israel. Their rigid attitude provides little area for compromise. They reject peace, and, as Saudi Arabia's concern with most of the specific problems involved (border rectifications, refugees, Jordan Valley development, etc.) is indirect, there is no real compulsion on its leaders to compromise for settlement of any of these points.

G. WADSWORTH

No. 930

984A 53/12-1054: Telegram

*The Ambassador in Israel (Lawson) to the Department of State*¹

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY TEL AVIV, December 10, 1954—4 p. m.

494. Prime Minister separately saw British Ambassador and myself today at his request in Tel Aviv. He said purpose of conversation was that there would be no misunderstanding IG point of view re developments *Bat Galim* case.

Sharett said IG sees rather abrupt interruption SC proceedings as interim stage but is anxious US and GB know IG aim. Israel representative told by British, and he believes by US representative UN, best course was to have time to consider matter and take soundings Cairo and possibility influence Egypt release vessel.

He termed release proposals by GOE vague and he emphasized Israel's aim and main point of issue is to establish not a special privilege, but Israel's undisputed right to have its ships pass through canal under its own flag. He expressed the hope that US diplomatic efforts in Cairo were pointed this direction.

Israel, he said, would be patient and was not protesting reasonable delay for purposes mentioned but could not wait indefinitely; IG would not drop issue and did not want to let its cause go by default. He hoped US Government could let him know in a few days

¹ Repeated to London and Cairo.