

how Cairo *démarche* was progressing. There should be no misunderstanding, he repeated, as to Israel's aim, release of ship, crew, and cargo as a unit to proceed to its destination. He was grateful for Cairo effort but will welcome information as to how matters stand. IG will be guided by this information as to its next move.

In answer to my query that IG then had no objection to the postponement, if for a reasonable time, Sharett agreed but said again Israel would not stay quiet indefinitely. If too many days went by, Israel would have to ask for another meeting of SC, but in reply to my question as to what he thought was a reasonable time to receive information, he indicated that about middle of next week should produce reply from British and US and IG would be guided by report on Cairo thinking. Eban, he said, would also be in touch US representative at UN.

In brief exchange of views following above, he said IG felt GOE could explain giving in on this case to their public on basis of being up against a combined and solid international front and acknowledgement freedom of passage was part of bargain for British evacuation. I made no comment. Regarding my reference to Arab League meeting in Cairo and possible relation to desired delay by GOE, Sharett said IG not completely blind to tactical considerations but could not accept a dragging out of case to better Egypt's position if that was to remain intransigent.

LAWSON

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No. 931

684A.96/ 2-1154: Despatch

*The Ambassador in Egypt (Caffery) to the Department of State*

TOP SECRET

CAIRO, December 11, 1954.

No. 1145

Ref: Dept's CA-3378, Nov. 22, 1954.

Subject: Arab-Israel Settlement.

The following comments are in response to the five points set forth at the end of the Department's instruction under reference.

1. The elements of a final settlement between the country of assignment and Israel, irrespective of assessments of the possibility of moving at this time. A detailed statement is desired referring where appropriate to the specific objectives set forth above.

Egypt is far less concerned over the Palestine question than any of the other Arab States. GOE objectives for a final settlement would probably boil down to the following points: