

No. 933

894A.54/12-1954: Telegram

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Embassy in Israel*¹CONFIDENTIAL
PRIORITY

WASHINGTON, December 15, 1954—10:12 a. m.

334. Ur 494.² Advise PriMin USG position re right Israel shipping use Suez Canal remains unaltered. In case *Bat Galim* we have made and are making strong *démarches* to Egyptians both here and Cairo, but are not sanguine re possibilities obtaining complete reversal GOE position in this context. You may however assure PriMin establishment unrestricted right of Suez transit for Israel shipping is important US objective in NE.

Bat Galim incident has perhaps served demonstrate our previously expressed belief worthwhile progress this matter can best be made gradually and in a quiet atmosphere conducive to effective negotiation. Dramatic test cases can only hamper progressive relaxation Egyptian attitude on matter and it may well be such cases contribute to arousing emotions in Israel.

You should state we have some reason to hope for release vessel as well as crew and cargo. We further look forward to an increasingly effective response our efforts for total easing of restrictions on Israel shipping; a process which was interrupted by *Bat Galim* incident.

HOOVER

¹ Repeated to Cairo, London, and New York.² Document 930.

No. 934

684A.86/12-1754: Telegram

The Secretary of State to the Department of State

TOP SECRET

PARIS, December 17, 1954—11 a. m.

Dulte 4. Eyes only Hoover. Secretary and Eden discussed Arab-Israel problem at dinner last night. At Secretary's request Shuckburgh gave brief résumé his impressions resulting from his recent trip. (With Eden's acquiescence, he gave us informally thirteen-page report,¹ as yet uncleared by Foreign Office, summarizing his

¹ Not printed. The text of Shuckburgh's report, entitled "Notes on Arab-Israel Dispute", is in S/S-NEA files, lot 61 D 417, "Alpha Volume 1".