

personal impressions on Arab-Israeli dispute and suggestions re a possible settlement. This is being airpouched to Ken Scott, S/S for appropriate distribution.)

After some further discussion, it was agreed that a U.S.-U.K. WG would be constituted about mid-January to discuss and endeavor to agree on plan for seeking Arab-Israel settlement. It was recognized that absolute secrecy is imperative and that British Embassy would discuss with Department where WG should meet and cover plan to avoid any publicity.

Jebb raised question of whether French should be informed of this exercise, but it was agreed that this would be unwise. Similarly, there was query whether Turks should be brought in, but it was agreed that in first instance talks must be confined to U.S.-U.K. and that absolute secrecy was imperative. It was recognized that at some subsequent stage others might be brought in to assist in a settlement, but this would depend on results of U.S.-U.K. conversation.

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*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian, and African Affairs (Jernegan)*

SECRET

[WASHINGTON.] December 17, 1954.

Subject: United States Policy Toward Arab-Israeli Relations

Participants: Ambassador Abba Eban, Israel

Mr. Reuven Shiloah, Minister, Embassy of Israel

Acting Secretary Herbert Hoover, Jr.

Deputy Under Secretary Robert Murphy

Acting Assistant Secretary John D. Jernegan

Ambassador Eban began by referring to his previous conversations with the Secretary last Summer and Fall and said he had called this time to offer "reflections on familiar themes". These themes were (a) the security of Israel and (b) peace in the Middle East.

Since his last meeting with the Secretary in October, the Ambassador said there had been developments which were both encouraging and discouraging. On the negative side, Israel had noted no concrete steps to change the adverse situation created by America's policy of arming the Arabs and by the Anglo-Egyptian base agree-