

Riad explained that crew will be released at kilo 95 Gaza strip and ship will be released "to the south". Asked if any instructions had been sent to Ambassador Hussein re question passage through Canal Riad said "there is no need since he knows our position that no Israeli vessel can go through Canal".<sup>3</sup>

For your information: Idea sending ship through Canal under guard or other pretext was suggested when case first arose, was considered at highest level and rejected. Since then no GOE official here has ever given slightest indication of possibility changing this decision which Embassy considers final. End for your information.

Re cargo Riad emphasized that delay its removal entirely due Israelis.

Re SC meeting Riad guessed it would take place first days January and added "let's dispose of this question then".

CAFFERY

<sup>3</sup> The Egyptian Representative at the United Nations informed the President of the Security Council on Dec. 23 that Egypt would release the crew of the *Bat Galim* on Jan. 1, 1955. (U.N. doc. S/3335)

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#### *Memorandum of Conversation, by the Deputy Under Secretary of State (Murphy)*

SECRET

WASHINGTON, December 30, 1954.

Subject: *Bat Galim*

Participants: Mr. Eban, Ambassador of Israel  
Mr. Shiloah, Minister of Israel  
Mr. Murphy—G  
Mr. Jernegan—NEA  
Mr. Popper—UNP

The Israeli Ambassador called late today to request the United States to make a further approach to the Egyptian Government in the matter of the *Bat Galim*. He stated that the Israelis had the impression that the Egyptians would deposit the crew of the *Bat Galim* on the Gaza-Israeli border on January 1, despite the unwillingness of the Mixed Armistice Commission to assist in their repatriation. Before that step was taken, the Ambassador hoped we would inform the Egyptians that if the *Bat Galim* were moved through the Canal, even with an Egyptian crew, and released to its own crew at the north end for completion of its voyage, Israel would abandon the current proceedings in the Security Council and