



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

March 15, 1949

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SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

PALESTINE

The Israeli government has admitted moving troops to the front facing the Iraqi troops in Palestine to protect their territory from alleged Iraqi raiders; we are suggesting to the Iraq government that every effort be made to prevent such raids and have pointed out to our representative in Amman that if Transjordan and Iraq have evidence that Israel is planning offensive action against the Iraqi forces this should be brought to the acting Mediator's attention.

In reply to a request from Ethridge for a statement of the Israeli position on the refugee question, Foreign Minister Shertok has stated that he is unable to do so owing to his departure for the US and has expressed his doubts of the advisability of making such a statement at this time as, if pressed for a statement of his governments intentions in the existing circumstances, he would have to say that the major solution for the refugee problem is resettlement though a portion of the refugees might be readmitted, but this would depend on other factors, including the kind of peace Israel gets with the Arabs. Ethridge feels that the statement could have been made if there had been any real desire on Shertok's part to do so and that by making no commitment Israel is holding up the possibility of peace and at the same time consolidating her positions.

NORTH ATLANTIC

In reply to questions received from Portugal concerning the North Atlantic pact we have instructed our Ambassador in Lisbon to inform the Portuguese government that no party to the treaty could be required to grant facilities on its territory without its full consent and that moving procedure in the defense organization is contemplated. However, we do not wish the Portuguese to have any illusions that facilities in the Azores may not be necessary in peace time. Our Ambassador is further to inform the Portuguese that we do not see any inconsistency between the pact and existing Spanish-Portuguese agreements nor any impediment in it to future defense arrangements between Spain and Portugal and that it is clearly understood that the obligation to consult under the treaty covers a threat to any party in any part of the world, including its overseas possessions.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3-402

State Dept. Guideline, June 12, 1979

By NIT- *HC* NARS, Date *11-13-80*

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