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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 3(D) or (B)  
Dept. of State letter, 7-18-75  
By NLT-          , NARS Date 8-26-75

September 8, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: The President's Press Conference on  
September 9, 1948 - De jure Recognition  
of Israel

Reference is made to my secret memorandum of August 30, 1948, relating to the de jure recognition of the Governments of Israel and Transjordan.

For your background guidance, I am attaching press clippings relating to my press conference on September 8 at which I was questioned concerning the extension of de jure recognition to Israel by the United States. I became committed to a reply of the nature made by me because of my ill-advised use of the expression that the de jure recognition was "a matter of timing".

If you are also questioned on this subject, it is suggested that the press correspondents be informed that the question of de jure recognition of Israel will not be finally decided until a recommendation is received from the State Department. It might also be stated that a recommendation is not expected from the State Department until elections have been held in Israel, now scheduled to take place about October 1.



Attachments:

2 press clippings relating to  
September 8th press conference

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ISRAEL

WASHINGTON--SECRETARY MARSHALL SAID TODAY THE UNITED STATES HOPES TO GRANT FULL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO THE NEW REPUBLIC OF ISRAEL AFTER THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS IN THAT COUNTRY.

MARSHALL TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE BY THE WHITE HOUSE AFTER RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

THE UNITED STATES HAS EXTENDED PARTIAL--OR DE FACTO--RECOGNITION TO THE NEW JEWISH NATION. BUT IT HAS DELAYED GIVING IT "DE JURE" OR FULL LEGAL RECOGNITION WHICH IS NECESSARY BEFORE DIPLOMATIC ENVOYS CAN BE EXCHANGED.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS, THE SECRETARY SAID THE GRANTING OF FULL RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL IS A MATTER OF TIMING.

MARSHALL SAID ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD NEXT MONTH IN ISRAEL UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS PARTITION PLAN. HE INDICATED IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO GIVE THIS RECOGNITION BEFORE THESE ELECTIONS ARE HELD, BUT DECLINED TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION MORE SPECIFICALLY.

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MARSHALL SAID ALSO:

1. THE STATE DEPARTMENT PROBABLY WILL REPLY THIS AFTERNOON TO RUSSIA'S PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF THE BIG FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL BEFORE SEPT. 15 CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF ITALY'S FORMER COLONIES. HE DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER SUCH TALKS WOULD BE LIMITED TO THE COLONIES ISSUE OR COULD TAKE UP THE BERLIN CRISIS AND OTHER MATTERS.

2. THE U.S. HOPES AT THE PROPER TIME TO EXTEND FULL LEGAL RECOGNITION TO THE NEW STATE OF ISRAEL. THE RECOGNITION ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN WAS ONLY PARTIAL OR "DE FACTO." MARSHALL SAID TIMING OF THE ACTION WAS IMPORTANT. HE SAID A FACTOR IS AN ELECTION SCHEDULED IN ISRAEL IN OCTOBER.

3. THE AMERICAN ENVOY IN BUCHAREST HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO ROMANIA'S COMMUNIST-LED GOVERNMENT ON THE NATIONALIZATION OF AMERICAN-OWNED PROPERTY IN ROMANIA. MARSHALL SAID DETAILS WOULD BE DISCLOSED LATER.

4. AMERICAN MILITARY AID FOR WESTERN EUROPE IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. MARSHALL SAID HE ASSUMED THE TALKS ON THE SUBJECT WITH BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND THE BENELUX COUNTRIES ARE FARTHER ALONG NOW THAN DURING THE SUMMER.

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