TOP SECRET

For Mr. Connelly:

There is attached a personal message to the President from Ambassador McDonald concerning the recognition of Israel.

R. G. Barnes
TO: Secretary of State

FROM: Tel Aviv

RE: September 12, 7 p.m.

URGENT

PERSONAL ATTENTION PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.

In your letter July 21, Mr. President, among other points you instructed me to report to you on "appropriate time for full recognition" PDL. That time has, I believe, now come.

After more than four weeks intensive study here and further to my telegram to you (70, August 24) that indefinite truce cannot lead to peace without positive action to clarify situation, I am convinced that full recognition by the US now of PDL would accomplish four major US objectives:

One. Strengthens PDL moderates who want if humanely possible avoid renewal warfare.

Two. Give Arab moderates, especially Abdullah (who knew past months decision battleground was grave and who fear renewed warfare might result personal and national debacle), additional reason accelerated move towards settlement.

Three. Remove major obstacle to peace negotiations by demonstrating to Arab intransigents fact that Israel's existence cannot longer be denied or ignored.

Four. Encourage British relax its non-recognition policy.

Unless US makes up own mind as in original recognition without waiting

INFORMATION COPY
S104, September 13, 7 p.m., from Tel Aviv

Without waiting on British corresponding or related action, I see delay dangerous and possibly fatal to peace hopes. British present procrastination is continuation of Hia Hafid's Government's non-cooperation policy since UNCEP partition recommendation and reflects same stubborn misjudgments in basic elements in this area. Judged by present results, British experts-except General D'Arcy and General Duff-who warned that Jews would defeat Arabs—gravely misled their government and are still doing so. Hence, to wait on British is to invite failure.

Grounds justifying full recognition are found in PFI's—(a) plans early election constituent assembly, (b) its control of state, (c) its repeated public and official expressed willingness negotiate peace settlement with Arabs.

In urging full recognition now I am aware of possible repercussions in Arab countries, including possible danger to Americans. However, I believe that clear statement to Arab governments given in advance through neighboring nations that such US action be not unfriendly nor acceptance of Israel as fait accompli and notification that US expects fullest protection its citizens would receive or greatly diminish danger. Furthermore, in this connection I wish observe that several other nations have accorded full recognition Israel without suffering danger or change their missions or citizens in Arab countries.

I have also kept in mind fact that there are important unanswered questions about PFI's attitude towards (a) Jerusalem, (b) November 29 frontier, (c) Arab refugees. Despite these questions, I am convinced that do have recognition in advance US assembly would increase chances satisfactory settlement these and related issues during peace negotiations.

Bernadette
-3-, #104, September 12, 7 p.m., from Tel Aviv

Bernadotte and staff's urgent recommendation peace effort at UNA and their conviction that otherwise truce must lead to war within few weeks (REFWITEL 101, September 10) are additional reasons immediate full recognition. There can be no fruitful peace negotiations until Arab states see that Israel is definitely established.

Although legal differences between de facto and de jure recognition are regarded by some distinguished lawyers as slight, it would be difficult exaggerate practical value U.S. decision full recognition advance UN Assembly.

Mr. President, your and Secretary's action May 15 was highest statesmanship because it courageously set constructive example. Completion now of what you both began might be decisive for peace in Palestine and Middle East.

Department please reply direct to Tel Aviv.