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REPORT OP MEETING WITH SECRETARY OP STATE, ifl 0 C-

j LEAN ACHESON, THURSDAY, APRIL 5,1951

PRESENT t SECRETARY OF STATE MR\* WALDO ABRAHAM FEIHBERO

This meeting lasted some thirty-five minutes\* The Secretary told me when I came In that he had spoken with the President Wednesday night at the National Symphony, and that he was inf armed of the nature of my meeting with the President\* The secretary was most friendly and engaging, and for twenty minutes, in great detail, went ever the whole regional idea of the State Department, explaining the problems Involved\* I need not burden this report with these details since they are well known to the Israel Foreign Office\* He said quite fraakly that he realised this bill had every chance of passing) that if it was pressed and did pass, it would be at the expense of the total Regional Flan, since Congress was in such an ugly mood that it would not grant commensurate additional funds to the rest of the region\* He spoke very highly of Mr.Ebnn, and stated that he knows he could never convince him of the fact that Israel - should receive a comparatively smaller amount in the total Regional Flan\*

He said that he had been working very hard to convince the Arabs to absorb the 750,000 refugees, and had told then, first, that they should accept the reality that these people could never be settled in Israel and, second, that they were a tremendous asset to whatever Arab countries they might oe settled in\* He stressed the importance of not insetting the present delicate situation, and stated the dcnger of Russia getting the \* oil of Iran\* He indicated that Russia could not wage a sustained war without that oil, and that it night take her several years, after she had gained possession, to pipe the oil for her own use\*

He was most generous in his remekks about Israel and the great tilings which have been accomplished there\* He said he fully ־understood the need for the large sums being requested, and further stated that he could not truthfully testify, if called before a Senate hearing, that these monies were not necessary to Israel\* He stated that if the bill were p\*reasdd, It would be most embarrassing to the Administration and to the State Department, and generally gave me the impression that he was suggesting that the bill be abandoned\* He was most careful not to state this, however, and I thought it would be unwise to ask this question directly, since if he confirmed my suspicions, I would not be In a posi- tion to argue vigorously with the president on this bill\*

Having patiently listened to his long exposition, the details of which I had known before I came to see him, I thought it was time to make certain points! These were as follows!

1) That the origin of the bill went back to my summer meeting with the President, where he not only expressed sympathetic interest, but premised support\*

2) That in line with this attitude of the Pre difen t. together with my colleagues I had set out to got Congressional support which the President had stated he would need•

3) That perhaps this job had been done too well since, by his own admission, the bill had a good likelihood of passing\*

4) I then pointed cut that as a result of this constant organising, the whole American Jewish community was alerted, and while they might be kept passive for several months on the assumption that the bill was being considered in Comnlttees, there would be a time In the near future when an answer would have to be made to them.

5) That there was nothing sacred about this bill, and that if toy other way# short of Congressional action or public action, could be devised to stjpply this £150,000,000 in the coming year, I was sure that this will serve the purpose,

He seemed to respond with a fair degree of eagerness to this suggestion, and stated that it was something we should consider together•

I also told him that I was sure he could never convince the Arabs that it was fair to give a large amount cf money to Israel based on Israel’s needs, which he knew stemmed frcra the huge influx of immigration. He stated that ho realized the need and knew that immigration could not be stopped• I also told him that I knew he could never convince the Arabs that Israel was entitled to large sums of money based on the ability to put these sums to use, and I reminded him of the remarkable record of Israel\*8 performance with sums received from the Kxport-Bnpart Bank• However, I told him that 1 understood his problem and that the President could count on full support to alleviate this problem• Furthermore, 1' would he seeing Mr.Bon Gurlan, Mr.Sharett, and President Wgizmam within a few weeks and would explain to them the conversation which we were , having• I also told him that I was coming back with Mr •Ben Gurion. I did not discuss the details of Mr.Ben Guidon’s visit, since I thought that it would be best to leave this for official charnels to handle•

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I left with the distinct Impression that he would be relieved to - find a way out of this embarrassment• That he was willing to help Israel with generous aid, but would like to find a method other than a public £ 150,000,000 grant• I had mentioned, in discussing this point, the

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ossibillty of military aid whloh would save conclderable expense to srael, or present payment foqr futiire produc tIon of raw materials f like potash, and in neitnW case did he voice an objection. X have the impression thart^DTl^EIs t^e of assistance could“be presented, it would be a way out of the woods for him.

Of course he Intimated that in the Regional Plan Israel would, in

asy case, be Included! and I believe that there is a"bargainin6 point for

funds additional to these iRSw cbritenplated &3 Israel’s ahre, now avail-

able to us• ■־

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Abraham Foiriberg•