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משרד החוץ

2786 2449-1

לשכת המשרד

תיק: 700

פ.נ.מ.

הקריה
בטבת תשי"ב
28 בדצמבר 1952

א.ל.

ידיעות לנציגויות ישראל בחו"ל

מס. 595

התרעה ממסלה ישראל על זיון מדינות ערב
(הודעת שר החוץ במסיבת עיתונאים)

בעקבות ישיבת הממשלה שהתקיימה ב-28 בדצמבר 1952, ואשר בה סקר שר החוץ את מדיניות מעצמות המערב כלפי המזרח התיכון, השמיע שר החוץ במסיבת עיתונאים שנערכה בו ביום בלשכתו בקריה אזהרה חמורה נגד מתן נשק מצד מעצמות מערביות למדינות ערב.

להלן הנוסח האנגלי של הודעת שר החוץ.

(על איגרת ממשלת ישראל לשלוש מעצמות המערב באותו נושא ועל תשובת ממשלות בריטניה וארצות הברית לאיגרת זו ר' י"ב מס' 574, 554 - תיק 700).

The Government of Israel must express serious disquiet at reports concerning deliveries of arms by leading Western Powers to certain Arab States, primarily Egypt.

The Arab States in question insist that they are at war with Israel. Only a few weeks ago they strenuously resisted the attempt made by a group of disinterested powers to secure the passage of a resolution in the General Assembly of the United Nations, aiming at the establishment of peace in the Middle East. They maintain, by boycott and blockade, an active system of economic warfare against Israel. In so acting they openly flout fundamental provisions of the U.N. Charter enjoining upon all member States the pursuit of peace and the resort to peaceful methods of resolving international conflicts. Egypt, particularly, has been guilty of wanton interference with the legitimate traffic of goods to Israel through the Suez Canal, in flagrant disregard of a clear injunction of the Security Council.

At the same time, the Government of Israel is not aware of an expression of readiness by any of the Arab governments concerned to undertake obligation in defence of democracy, either in each particular country or in the region as a whole. The regimes prevailing in most of these countries and the upheavals by which they have been recently convulsed leave much room for doubt whether the maintenance of democratic institutions is a vital concern of their rulers.

In all these circumstances the placing, at this juncture, of additional and important arms in the hands of Arab Governments, far from being conducive to the advent of peace and stability to the region, constitutes a menace to Israel's security, whilst offering no assured prospect of strengthening the area's defensive capacity against the dangers of outside aggression.

The present departure is at variance with the declaration jointly issued by the Governments of the U.S., the U.K. and France on 25 May 1950, which set its face against the development of an arms race between Israel and her Arab neighbours and which implied the maintenance of a fair defence equilibrium between them. The reported sales or grants of arms to the Arab States are liable seriously to upset the balance to Israel's detriment, to lead to an arms race, and thus to nullify the moral and practical effect of the assurances contained in the tri-partite declaration.

The Government of Israel must utter a serious warning against this policy, so clearly damaging to Israel's security and to the interests of regional and world peace.

28 December 1952.