

2487/2
TO : MEMISRAEL PARIS
FROM : SHARETT HAMISRAH JERUSALEM

SENT: 21.12.54

Rafael. Definitely prefer direct personal message on plain paper no form address no signature but state orally this from Roham to Roham begins:

"I have received report of your message transmitted through a special emissary now in Paris para

I have noted with deep satisfaction that it is your desire to bring about a peaceful solution of the problems outstanding between Egypt and Israel. I welcome particularly your readiness to consider measures for improving the present situation and reducing the prevailing tensions. We for our part are eager to cooperate in efforts directed towards this end.

Many of us admire your brave idealism and tenacity of purpose and wish you the fullest success in attaining the emancipation of the Land of the Nile from the last vestiges of foreign domination and the initiation for the masses of the Egyptian people of an era of social regeneration and economic welfare.

We feel sure that your aims are peace and progress and that you fully realise the interdependence of the two.

It is for this reason that we are keenly looking forward to more tangible evidence that you and your friends are preparing the ground for an eventual settlement with Israel by educating your public opinion to appreciate the vital importance of peace within the Middle East.

There are two matters in particular the handling of which may well have a decisive effect on the development of relations between our countries.

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In the first place, freedom for all shipping to and from Israel to pass through the Suez Canal would be in keeping with Egypt's international obligations and would be widely acclaimed by the international community.

Secondly, there is the urgent question of the trial now proceeding in Cairo. I cannot emphasize too strongly the gravity of the issue which is there in the balance. I fervently hope that no death sentences will be passed, as demanded by the prosecution. They would inevitably produce a violent crisis, kindle afresh the flames of bitterness and strife and defeat our efforts to curb passions and lead our people into ways of peace.

We look forward to counsels of farsighted statesmanship prevailing over considerations of the moment, for the sake of the goal which I assume we pursue in common - a settlement between Egypt and Israel and a state of peace and contentment inside the region as a whole.

This message which I am addressing to you above the din of daily conflict in a spirit of sincere quest for peace and friendship will, I hope, evoke a corresponding response. Ends.

S H A R E T T

KT/TN(4)