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5/1/53 ✓
Suez

WTE39/193

TO : MAHAV HAMISRAD TEL AVIV
FROM: EBAN MEMISRAEL WASHINGTON

SENT:27.3.53

RECD:28.3.53

Elath copy Mahav. Your BWT10 ONE. Recent developments Suez to which you refer may well prove point convenient to us. Westerners have sometimes assumed better try achieve Egypt's adherence in principle Western Defence before peace with Isr not because latter less desirable but because former less difficult. Now they not at all sure. Your THREE agree with this and with general suggestion we ask West take more serious look at Isr defence potential since they quite unsure of Egypt's adherence. On USA side this will be taken up with Wilson Nash Bradley when Sar arrives.

Assume however you dont suggest we modify our broad approach for peace settlement and defence arrangements within such settlement. Ike keeps saying essence of ME problem for West is Arab Isr peace not defence organism. Whether or not Egypt is responsive we should not abandon this chance of ideological unity with DC. At least we get important tactical advantage while at best Bunche may be right in his thesis Egypt could more readily be brought to peace with Isr than to open adherence any western defence system.

EBAN

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