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AE/54.08.8

Handwritten signature and date: August 10, 1954

August 10, 1954

Dear General:

During our conversation on Thursday you doubted whether I was correct in my apprehension that the Anglo-Egyptian "Heads of Agreement" gave specific recognition to the Arab League. I did not have the text in my possession but I have studied it since.

Paragraph (4) of the Heads of Agreement reads:

"(a) In the event of an armed attack by an outside power on Egypt or any country which at the date of signature of the present agreement is a party to the treaty of joint defense between Arab League states (Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan, Iraq, Libya) or on Turkey, Egypt will afford to the United Kingdom such facilities as may be necessary in order to place the base on a war footing and to operate it effectively... etc."

May I draw sorrowful attention both to the purposeful exclusion of Israel from the guarantee, and the unfortunate recognition by Britain as well as Egypt of an Arab "joint defense treaty" based on discrimination against Israel and hostility towards her.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Abba Eban

The Honorable
Walter Bedell Smith
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs
Washington DC

cc: Minister, Washington ✓
Segel "
Mahav, Misrad Hahutz
Rafael "