

WASHINGTON . 16.10.53

MAHAV , HAMISRAD, JERUSALEM

WS999 PRESIDENTS STATEMENT RE JOHNSON MISSION:
US GOVERNMENT BELIEVES INTERESTS WORLD PEACE CALL FOR
EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT CREATE CONDITIONS GREATER CALM
AND STABILITY NEAR EAST. ADMINISTRATION HAS
CONTINUOUSLY UNDERTAKEN RELIEVE TENSIONS THIS
SENSITIVE IMPORTANT AREA OF FREE WORLD. LAST SPRING
SECRETARY DULLES MADE FIRSHAND SURVEY AREA. IN
FURTHERANCE THIS POLICY I NOW SENDING ERIC JOHNSTON TO
NEAR EAST AS MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE WITH RANK
AMBASSADOR TO EXPLORE WITH GOVERMENTS OF REGION CERTAIN
STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE EXPECTED CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVEMENT
GENERAL SITUATION IN REGION. I ASSURED JOHNSTON HE
WILL HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT AND ENJOY WIDEST POSSIBLE
LATITUDE DEALING ALL QUESTIONS RELEVANT HIS MISSION.

ONE OF MAJOR CAUSES DISQUIET NEAR EAST IS FACT
THAT SOME HUNDREDS THOUSANDS ARAB REFUGEES LIVING WITHOUT
ADEQUATE MEANS SUPPORT IN ARAB STATES. MATERIAL WANTS
THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CARED FOR THROUGH UNRWA. US
CONGRESS OVER PERIOD FOUR YEARS APPROPRIATED TOTAL OF
ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTEEN
THOUSAND DOLLARS TO AID THEM. IT HAS BEEN EVIDENT FROM
START, HOWEVER, EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE BY COUNTRIES
CONCERNED WITH HELP INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO FIND A MEANS
GIVING THESE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE OPPORTUNITY REGAIN PERSONAL
SELSUFFICIENCY . ONE OF MAJOR PURPOSES HIS MISSION
WILL BE UNDERTAKE DISCUSSIONS WITH CERTAIN ARAB STATES AND
ISRAEL LOOKING TO MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT WATER RESOURCES
JORDAN RIVER VALLEY ON REGIONAL BASIS FOR BENEFIT ALL PEOPLE
OF AREA.

IN HIS CONVERSATIONS IN REGION HE WILL MAKE
KNOWN CONCERN FELT BY US GOVERNMENT : OVER CONTINUATION
NEAREAST TENSIONS AND EXPRESS OUR WILLINGNESS ASSIST
EVERY PRACTICABLE WAY REDUCING AREAS OF CONTROVERSY.
HE WILL INDICATE IMPORTANCE WHICH US GOVERNMENT ATTACHES.
REGIONAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT NATURAL RESOURCES. SUCH
APPROACH HOLDS PROMISE EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT COUNTRIES
CONCERNED THROUGH DEVELOPMENT MUCH NEEDED IRRIGATION AND
HYDROELECTRIC POWER AND CREATION ECONOMIC BASE ON LAND
FOR SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION ARAB REFUGEES. ACCEPTANCE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN JORDAN VALLEY DEVELOPMENT WOULD
CONTRIBUTE GREATLY STABILITY NEAREAST AND ITS GENERAL
ECONOMIC PROGRESS. I ASKED HIM EXPLAIN THIS POSITION TO
STATES CONCERNED SEEK THEIR COOPERATION AND HELP THEM THROUGH
WHATEVER MEANS HE FINDS ADVISABLE.

SHAG

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