

CONFIDENTIAL

American Embassy

Tel Aviv, July 15, 1954

No. 3

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to the Ministry's unnumbered note of May 19, 1954, expressing the view of the Government of Israel that the sending of a survey party to Israel, as proposed by the Embassy's note no. 164 of May 7, 1954, was at that stage not necessary. Since then Your Excellency and members of your Government have held further discussions with Ambassador Johnston and members of his party on the subject of the development of the Jordan Valley. During the course of these discussions it was pointed out that in order to proceed with the engineering studies of the Jordan Valley it was essential for a field party to obtain further technical information on Lake Tiberias and the Yarmuk triangle area. Accordingly, my Government hopes that the Government of Israel may now agree that the making of a field survey of this area is desirable. The field party which would be required for this purpose would include a supervising engineer, geologist, survey chief, rodman, chairman, and hydrologist. While the immediate purpose of the survey is to tie the level of datums of Lake Tiberias and the Yarmuk triangle with those used for the East Ghor canal mapping, the field party would also wish to make route surveys of proposed canals from the Yarmuk River to Lake Tiberias and from the lake to the East Ghor, study water uses in the triangle, examine data to determine methods for use of Lake Tiberias as a reservoir, and study withdrawals now being undertaken and contemplated south of Lake Tiberias.

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The findings of the survey would, of course, be made available to the Government of Israel.

My Government, therefore, requests the consent of the Government of Israel to the making of this field survey and also information on the nature of any detailed topographic maps or recent aerial photo coverages that might be available for use in planning for the survey.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

His Excellency

Moshe Sharett,

Minister for Foreign Affairs,

of the State of Israel.