

The U.S. Government has viewed with sympathy the efforts directed to find a solution for the difficulties which have arisen in connection with the construction of the B'north Jacob canal by Israel.

It notes that in the absence of agreement on certain points at issue between the U.N. Chief of Staff and the Government of Israel it was agreed that the matter might be pursued in the Security Council.

The Council has this problem now inserted on its agenda and is about to enter into a detailed discussion of the case. The U.S. Government will approach these discussions in an open mind and in the hope that after examination of the facts and claims the points at issue will be clarified and the matter satisfactorily settled.

26 October 1953

3. The Security Council's urgent examination of the question terminated on 22 January 1954, when no substantive resolution was adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member.

On 24 January 1954 the Government of Israel adopted the following decision:

" The Government of Israel notes that the conclusion of the Security Council's consideration of the subject without any decision having been arrived at, signifies the failure of Syria's complaint against Israel which had caused the Security Council to be seized of the problem. "

4. The same decision continued that the examination referred to in the Government's undertaking of 27 October 1953 had also terminated. That decision was made public. Syria took no steps to dispute the interpretation there given to the effect of the discussion in the Security Council; similarly, no Government represented on the Security Council and no organ of the United Nations evinced any reaction. ^{On} the contrary, steps were taken under United Nations auspices to reach satisfactory solution of the outstanding questions involving private rights. For that purpose a mission of two experts was sent to the area and made recommendations for the necessary technical arrangements. On 26 March 1954 the Government of Israel informed the Chief of Staff, UNTSO, of its acceptance of those recommendations.

Jerusalem

3.5.56