

expanded form of the remarks to give their full context which would include their clarification. Apparently these had not filtered through to the President. I had also spoken to a few leading Egyptian journalists on the matter but without any effect as far as press comment was concerned.) I had with me text of exchanges in the House between the Prime Minister and members of Opposition on March 6 and 7 relating to Egypt, which I left with him, first reading out to him PM's relevant remarks on "use of force", clearance of Suez, etc. placing them in their proper perspective and showing how entirely distorted had been their interpretation. He admitted that there had been misunderstanding on his part, but then more in sorrow than in anger complained of hostile tone of press abroad including Canada. Everything he did was reported as "provocative", "abrupt", etc. When he sent an administrative governor back to Gaza ... the Western press accused him of "aggressive" designs. The same papers had not used such epithets in referring to Israel's attack of October 29. Ben-Gurion⁴ had recently made an open threat of force [in] relation to Gaza. Yet, to his knowledge, no important Western paper had rebuked him for it. What would their comments have been if he had threatened force against Israel on the occasion of their making some arrangement behind their own borders? Could any fair-minded person be asked to believe that the press of the West was impartial in viewing the Israeli-Arab problem?

4. I interposed a question on his intentions in Gaza, expressing the hope that fedayeen raids would not be renewed as it hardly seemed in the long run to serve Egyptian defence interests. He went over some familiar ground insisting that authorized raids were purely retaliatory and only commenced in early 1955 when a new Ben-Gurion allegedly aggressive policy became apparent. He said he had no intention of organizing future fedayeen raids but the occasional marauder that broke through both lines would be always used by Israel as an excuse for attacks upon Arab neighbours. (It appears to be true that for at least three months before the

4. *Le premier ministre d'Israël David Ben-Gourion. / Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion of Israel.*