

government, a realistic assessment of the possibilities is difficult; but our Chargé d'Affaires in Beirut has stated that he is inclined to accept the United States estimate of possible Syrian reaction. On the other hand the Egyptians showed no inclination to assist the Syrians at the time of the Israeli attack at Lake Tiberias, which came shortly after announcement of the Syrian-Egyptian military alliance.

It seems unlikely that the Arab states would ever concede Israel the right to carry on with unilateral schemes for diversion of the Jordan waters. Therefore, in the absence of agreement on any international settlement such as the Johnston plan, it appears that the Syrian sector of the demarcation lines will continue to be a source of potential danger. Resumption of work in the demilitarized zone by Israel at any time before a full settlement of the issue is arrived at might well precipitate major disturbances. At this particular time, when considerable Syrian forces are understood to be massed near Lake Tiberias, and with the other Arab states also in a state of military alertness for a variety of reasons, it would almost certainly have drastic repercussions.

J. L[ÉGER]

SECTION B

EXPORTATIONS D'ARMES AU MOYEN-ORIENT EXPORT OF ARMS TO THE MIDDLE EAST

9.

DEA/50000-A-40

*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

SECRET

[Ottawa], January 19, 1956

EXPORT OF ARMS TO THE MIDDLE EAST

You asked for a review of the export of military equipment and aircraft to the Middle East during the last two years. You also asked for a review of the procedures relating to the control of such exports.

2. I attach a Table† showing by dollar value and by types of items the export permits for such exports to the Middle East which were issued from January 1, 1954 to December 31, 1955. I should point out that these figures do not cover actual deliveries, since there is necessarily a time lag between the issue of an export permit and the delivery of an order. I shall return below to the matter of this time lag. Delivery figures are not directly available, and we have so far been unable to obtain them; I assume that the permit figures attached are sufficient for your present purpose.

3. With regard to the steps leading up to the issue of an export permit there are two different starting points. Enquiries or requests may be directed to the Canadian Commercial Corporation, or to private Canadian companies which sooner or later get in touch with the Department of Trade and Commerce about the likelihood of obtaining an export permit. When the matter reaches a stage where an export permit is sought it is the Canadian supplier and not the foreign purchaser who makes application for it.