

plaints to the Mixed Armistice Commissions and the complaint by Israel to the International Civil Aviation Organization against Arab failure to cooperate in established air-safety practices.

This apparent stiffening of foreign policy has revived apprehension that Israel may soon resume work on its project to divert the Jordan River waters for irrigation and power development. In recent weeks the Israelis have been constructing defensive positions in the demilitarized zone along the frontier with Syria north of Lake Tiberias. While this has no necessary immediate connection with possible intentions to resume digging operations in the zone, it inevitably has increased speculation that work is about to be resumed, and has led to a Syrian complaint to the Mixed Armistice Commission. Moreover, there have been several recent Israeli complaints of Syrian violations of the demarcation line in the area; and since these apparently are without foundation, it has been suggested that the Israelis may be concocting a pretext for an initiative of their own. In view of Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's frequent assertions that Israel cannot much longer delay work on the canal project in the demilitarized zone, and the recent loss of Mr. Sharett's restraining influence in the Cabinet, the possibility that Israel may now press on with the scheme certainly cannot be ignored. Should work be resumed in the face of the intransigent Arab opposition to the Israeli undertaking, the danger of large-scale hostilities being precipitated would be very real indeed, particularly at this time when other sections of Israel's frontiers are under tension, and the Arabs apparently are in a state of considerable military preparedness.

The Jordan River canal project, of which the disputed work in the demilitarized zone forms a part, involves diversion of a portion of the Jordan waters north of Lake Tiberias. It is intended to carry water from the river along an eight-mile canal to a point on the lake, where some of the water will be used to operate a hydro-electric project. The balance of the water would be carried to a nearby reservoir for ultimate transmission by tunnel, canal and pipe to the Yarkon River at Tel Aviv, thereafter to be utilized for various irrigation schemes.

Israel abandoned work on the canal diversion project in the demilitarized zone in September 1953, following a protest by Syria to the United Nations Security Council, and agreed to suspend digging operations while the question was given further "urgent examination". It was pointed out during the Security Council discussions on the complaint that the General Armistice Agreement gives the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization responsibility for the general supervision of the demilitarized zone; and it has been suggested that Israel would require the approval of General Burns before resuming work on the scheme.

Since 1953, construction of other portions of the canal, from the edge of the demilitarized zone to Lake Tiberias and thence to the reservoir at Beit Natufa, has continued. This work is far from complete, and will probably take another two years to finish. However, the section in the demilitarized zone forms an integral part of the whole Israeli scheme; and Israel argues that it cannot be expected to go ahead with other sections of the work while its right ultimately to construct the disputed portion remains in doubt, since failure to complete that part would wreck the entire project.

Since work in the demilitarized zone was abandoned in 1953 at the request of the Security Council, the United States in effect has assumed responsibility for negotiation of the Jordan waters dispute, in the absence of any further United Nations action. President Eisenhower appointed Mr. Eric Johnston as his special ambassador to go to the Middle East and present to the Israeli and the Arab governments a comprehensive plan for development of the Jordan River for the joint benefit of Israel and the Arab states (particularly