

מ' שרת אל ג' רפאל (פאריס)
M. Sharett to G. Rafael (Paris)

מברק מוצפן. TP505
 נוסח יוצא: 130.02/2453/20

Jerusalem, 19 December 1954

Most immediate

Personal.¹ Begins:

I am addressing myself to you despite the present state of tension and animosity feeling confident that, while determined to serve the best interests of our respective nations, and because this is our aim, we are both eager to achieve an honorable understanding between them.

Many of us admire your integrity, idealism and tenacity of purpose and wish you the fullest success in attaining the emancipation of the Land of the Nile from the last vestiges of foreign domination and the initiation for the masses of the Egyptian people of an era of social regeneration and economic welfare.

We feel sure that your aims are peace and progress and that you fully realise the interdependence of the two.

It is for this reason that we are keenly looking forward to more tangible evidence that you and your friends are preparing the ground for an eventual settlement with Israel by educating your public opinion to appreciate the vital importance of peace within the Middle East.

The recognition of Israel's elementary right to free passage through the Suez Canal – not as a concession to her, but in discharge of Egypt's international obligations and in deference to an overwhelming consensus of world opinion – would indeed be a positive step in that direction.

But there is also the question of avoiding certain acts which are liable to set back the clock of peace indefinitely. What I here have in mind is the outcome of the trial now proceeding in Cairo against a group of hapless and helpless Jews.² I cannot emphasize too strongly the gravity of the issue which hangs there in the balance for our future relations. I fervently hope that, whatever the guilt established, no death sentences will be passed, for their execution would lead to dire results: it would inevitably produce a most violent crisis,

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1. התעודה שלפנינו היא הנוסח שהציע שרת לשרר אל נאסר שיימסר באמצעות צאדק – ראה מס' 553. נוסח זה אמנם דומה, בתיקונים מסוימים, לשרר שהיה אמור להימסר באמצעות אורבך (ראה מס' 542) ולשרר שנמסר בסופו של דבר בידי צאדק – מס' 559.
 2. למחרת הורה שרת להשמיט את המילים: against a group of hapless and helpless Jews. (ראה מברק אל השגרירות בפאריס, TP506, 20.12.1954, 130.02/2453/20.)

kindle afresh the flames of bitterness and strife, and defeat our efforts to curb passions and lead our people into ways of peace.

We look forward to your farsighted and constructive statesmanship to prevent the erection of a scaffold as an insuperable barrier between Egypt and Israel. We probably hold different views of the culpability of the accused, and I will not attempt to persuade you to accept mine. But I would appeal to you to exercise forbearance for the sake of the goal which I assume we pursue in common – a settlement between Egypt and Israel and a state of peace and contentment inside the region as a whole. Ends.³

Sharett