

Middle East conflict - Lebanon. Correspondence, statements, resolutions: Mi...

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Middle East conflict 1958 - July 16/17

Sec. Gen.'s notes on meeting with K. Lodge (Ambass. of USA)

SECRET

("odds")

16/17 July 1958

Ambassador Lodge saw me at his own request at 10 pm, 16 July. He wished to see me alone in order to transmit a message from Dulles. From a source which he could not name, but which, undoubtedly, I could guess, they had the following information.

1. The UAR had instructed the rebels to resist any forward moves by the US troops.
2. The UAR had further told Karami that he should hold back on any advice on a compromise or cease-fire that might come from the "Lebanese army".
3. Para-military operations on the West bank of Jordan would get organised as of this night.

I said to Lodge that I was sure that Washington was not surprised by 1) or 2), which seemed to me to be just as unavoidable as a Russian veto of the US draft resolution. However, 3) was a different matter. It worried me very much and I would this same night take steps, although it would require a couple of hours for me to make up my mind on how to operate. (The result was the personal letter to Fawzi, and the cable to Carver and von Horn).

I saw Loutfi about midnight and gave him the letter to Fawzi, putting the main emphasis on point 1, but stressing also the wording of point 2 in the letter. Loutfi said that he, personally, considered an extension of Unogil very natural; in fact, he had anticipated such a step from my statements yesterday and today so that Cairo would not be surprised by my message. He fully appreciated that a cautious attitude on my probable proposals had to be taken by Cairo and the people Cairo could influence.

India and Yugoslavia were both interested in a move in the direction which I was now trying. However, what was more significant was that Loutfi had asked Sobolev how the Soviet Delegation would react to a proposal to extend the powers of the SG to expand the Unogil. Sobolev replied that that would be alright. (On the basis of this information I sent the additional cable to Plaza).