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GENERAL

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LETTER DATED 6 JULY 1951 FROM THE ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER  
PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE HASHIMITE KINGDOM OF THE JORDAN TO THE  
UNITED STATES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to our meeting on Tuesday, 19 June 1951, and to request the release to the honourable delegates at the United Nations of the cablegram sent to Your Excellency on 7 June 1951, by the Jordanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, concerning the complaint of the Hashimite Kingdom of the Jordan against Israel for the interference of the latter with the natural flow of the waters of the River Jordan, together with the report of the Jordanian Director of Lands and Surveys which I presented, at the meeting referred to above, with a map illustrating the report on the salinity of the River Jordan.

With respect to the presentation of the case to the Security Council, I shall notify Your Excellency of the reply of the Jordanian Government immediately upon its receipt.

(Signed) Dr. Y. HAIKAL  
Envoy Extraordinary and  
Minister Plenipotentiary

ANNEX I

CABLEGRAM DATED 7 JUNE 1951 FROM THE JORDANIAN MINISTER FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, CONCERNING  
THE WATERS OF THE RIVER JORDAN

I have honour request Your Excellency place on record following complaint and protest concerning infringement by Israeli Authorities against riparian rights of Hashemite Kingdom Jordan and take immediate steps ordering stoppage this aggression. Investigations carried out by Jordan Government experts established fact that Government Israel held up natural flow of River Jordan at southern outlet Lake Tiberias, namely at Deganiya Jewish settlement lying Israeli territory.

Quantity water thus held up estimated at 528,500,000 cubic metres per annum, a quantity which hitherto been used irrigation purposes in Jordan valley south Lake Tiberias in Jordan territory. Loss this water has caused considerable increase in salinity of waters River Jordan together with lowering its water level.

Seven pumps situated immediately north of Palestine Electric Corporation reservoir forming part of Idel Power Station and which now also operated by Israelis support Jordan Government contention. Amount of water removed by operation estimated 31,500,000 cubic metres per annum.

Abnormal rise in salinity has become catastrophic to cultivators who take irrigation water by pumps on both sides River Jordan in Jordan territory. Salinity its waters during British Mandatory period never exceeded 300 parts per million - permissible maximum for irrigation under Jordan valley soil conditions - whereas tests carried by Jordan Government experts during past three months showed this salinity have risen 1,130 parts per million at Allenby Bridge on Amman Jerusalem Highway.

Same disastrous salinity moreover decisively precluding all schemes of Palestine Arab refugees settlement in Jordan valley.

Unless prompt action taken to prevent this illegal interference by Israel in free flow of River Jordan at Deganiya, the general economy of Jordan Kingdom bound be seriously affected and all further development in irrigation from river must cease,

/I shall be

I shall be grateful therefore if you kindly inform me at earliest possible of measures which you will take to stop and prevent continuance this grave interference in normal flow of waters River Jordan caused by violations and flagrant contravention of international law.

Anastas HANANIA

Minister for Foreign Affairs

ANNEX II

REPORT OF THE JORDANIAN DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND SURVEYS TO THE  
JORDANIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY

I have the honour to report that I proceeded to the Palestine Electric Corporation Power Station at Jisr el Majami on 12 May in order to investigate the causes for the serious drop in the discharge of the River Jordan which was thought to be responsible for the high salinity of the water of the river now prevailing between Jisr Sheikh Husein and the Dead Sea.

The investigation on the spot brought to light the following facts relating to the reservoir forming part of the Power Station.

1. The Arab Legion guard, who has been stationed at the P.E.C. works for two and a half years stated that as a rule the level of the reservoir remained constant within narrow limits, falling slightly during the day and rising again at night. This agrees with my own observations on my occasional visits to the place.
2. The Irrigation Officials present stated the variation in the level was probably due to the operation of Jewish pumps, stated to be seven in number, which are located on the north bank of the River Yarmuk for the purpose of raising water on to the lands of the Jewish settlement of Ashdot Yacov.
3. Three of the sluices attached to the penstocks leading to the turbine of the P.E.C. were leaking badly.
4. As the reservoir is being continually replenished by the full flow of the Yarmuk and as the level remains constant it is clear that the reservoir, at the level obtaining at the time of inspection, does not affect the volume of water flowing from the Yarmuk into the Jordan since at this level a state of equilibrium had been reached where the volume of water leaking through the sluices and the escape channel equals the discharge of the Yarmuk.
5. A comparison of the discharge measurements taken in the Yarmuk above Adasiya and in the Jordan at Jisr Sheikh Husein sixteen kilometres down stream from the confluence of the two rivers is shown in the table subjoined.

/Date

<u>Yarmuk</u>		<u>Jordan Jisr Sheikh Husein</u>	
<u>Date</u>	(M <sup>3</sup> per sec.)	<u>Date</u>	(M <sup>3</sup> per sec.)
9/4/51	9.0	6/4/51	6.2
17/4/51	6.8	12/4/51	6.9
2/5/51	8.0	19/4/51	9.3
		26/4/51	11.6
		3/5/51	6.5

It will be seen from the above discharge measurements that except for the 19th and 26th of April the discharge of the Jordan at this point was approximately equivalent to the discharge of the Yarmuk after making allowances for the water absorbed by the Adasiya canal and the Jewish pumps.

The only conclusion that can be drawn from these figures is that for periods which may be long or short the gates at Deganiya interfere with the normal flow of the Jordan at its outlet from Lake Tiberias.

It is also significant that a study of the discharge records at Deganiya for the months of April and May in 1936 after a season of poor rainfall (47 per cent below normal in the Huleh area) shows that the average discharge during April was 7.5 M<sup>3</sup> per second and for May 5.9 M<sup>3</sup> per second. In view of the climatic analogue for the rainy seasons of 1935-1936 and 1950-1951 it may be assumed that, provided there was a free flow through the Deganiya sluice gates, the discharge of the Jordan during the months of April and May 1951 should be of the same order, and the combined flow of the Jordan and the Yarmuk at Jisr Sheikh Husein should average at least 14.5 M<sup>3</sup> per second in April and 13 M<sup>3</sup> per second in May.

In its course between Lake Tiberias and the Dead Sea the Jordan receives increments from saline drainage and springs particularly in the middle reaches which, however, are diluted normally by the fresh water from Lake Tiberias and the Yarmuk to the extent that the resulting salinity during the Mandatory period never exceeded 300 parts per million (the permissible maximum for irrigation under Jordan Valley soil conditions) even during periods of low discharge.

Salinity tests of the Jordan water are now being made regularly at Jisr Sheikh Husein, Jisr Damiyh and the Allenby Bridge, the results of which are tabulated as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>JISR SHEIKH HUSEIN</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>JISR DAMIYA</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>ALLENBY BRIDGE</u>
<u>Sodium Chloride (NaCl): Parts per Million</u>					
21/4/51	365	14/4/51	468	23/3/51	952
26/4/51	320	21/4/51	555	30/3/51	1132
28/4/51	307	1/5/51	436	6/4/51	969
1/5/51	355			13/4/51	999
8/5/51	349			20/4/51	944
				28/4/51	982

'It is clear

It is clear therefore that the reduction in the normal flow of the Jordan by closing the sluice gates controlled by the Jews at Deganiya has increased the salinity of the river to such an extent as to make irrigation no longer feasible between Jisr Sheikh Husein and the Dead Sea.

The consequences arising from this abnormal increase in the salinity of the Jordan can only be described as disastrous to the existing cultivators taking irrigation water by pumps on both sides of the river, but also it effectively and decisively precludes all schemes of refugee settlement in the Jordan Valley. I am informed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East that it has under active consideration four schemes in this area, each one dependent on pumping water from the river. Private enterprise is also engaged in developing land in the Valley with the intention of pumping water from the same source.

Therefore, unless immediate action is taken by Government to prevent the existing unwarranted interference in the free flow of the river at Deganiya, the economy of Jordan will be seriously affected and all further development depending on irrigation from the River Jordan must cease.

For easy reference I attach a map on which is shown all places mentioned in this report.

(Signed) G.F. WALPOLE  
Director of Lands and Surveys

