

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS
TELEGRAPH BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFORMATION
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OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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USURGENT

Nov. 7, 1947

7 p.m.

AMEMBASSY

London

4772

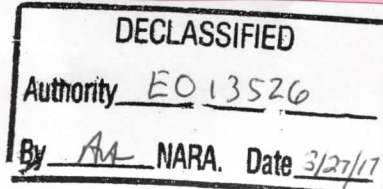
Please call on Mr. Bevin and leave with him the following memorandum in response to his aide-memoire of October 30 (Your 5787 October 30): "Reference is made to the Aide-Memoire of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs dated October 30, 1947 with regard to the activities of the SS PAN CRESCENT and PAN YORK, which according to the Aide-Memoire are vessels registered under the flag of Panama now present at Constanza. The Foreign Secretary has likewise invited attention to the possibility that the COLONEL FREDERICK C. JOHNSON, now lying at Norfolk, Virginia, may be destined for the same traffic.

"The Department of State has undertaken immediate investigation of the status of these vessels. This investigation however is not complete and the following comments provide merely an interim answer reflecting the concern which the Government of the United States shares with the Government of the United Kingdom over the activities of vessels engaged in the clandestine emigrant traffic to Palestine. Meanwhile armed cutters of the United States Coast Guard have the COLONEL FREDERICK C. JOHNSON under twenty-four surveillance at Norfolk and all possible steps are being taken to prevent the sailing of this vessel.

"For the most confidential information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs it can be revealed that Officers of the Department of State have discussed this problem as a matter of urgency with authorized representatives of the Jewish Agency in New York City. With specific reference to the SS PAN CRESCENT, PAN YORK, and SS COLONEL FREDERICK C. JOHNSON an authorized representative of the Jewish Agency

has no information

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-2-#4772, November 7, 7 p.m. to London.

has no information about prospective sailings either from Atlantic ports or ports in the Black Sea during the next five or six weeks. The representative of the Jewish Agency added that the Agency would do everything within its power to prevent further incidents but indicated that the Agency did not have complete control of the Jewish Underground. The Agency requested any precise information available as to prospective sailings in order that it might use its maximum influence to prevent incidents. The Department's representative stated that it expected the Jewish Agency to exert itself to the utmost to see that the Underground is restrained.

"Furthermore the Secretary of State has in person called in Jewish leaders and informed them with the greatest possible emphasis that unless immediate and effective steps were taken to stop this clandestine activity he would have no other recourse but to treat the matter publicly."

MARSHALL

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