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GENERAL

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1. Israel reportedly considering pacts with Arabs--US Ambassador McDonald in Tel Aviv has been told by "a reliable private American" that Israeli President Weizmann is calling a conference of top Israeli officials to urge that Israel offer "qualified non-aggression pacts" to the Arab states. The Department of State has informed McDonald that it would be pleased to see the Arab states and Israel enter freely into non-aggression pacts, but that the Department cannot give the matter full consideration without clarification of such details as what is meant by the word "qualified" and whether Weizmann envisages the pacts as forming part of an over-all peace settlement. The Department expresses the opinion that the Arab states would hardly be inclined to take favorable action on such a proposal unless it were connected with an over-all settlement.

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