Dear:

I have noted your expression of concern over the general situation in the Middle East and your very especial anxiety over the future of the Republic of Israel.

I spent some time in Israel in the early summer of 1955 and made some first-hand observations of the problems and challenges which exist in that area. I earnestly hope that a practical and acceptable plan or device can be developed that will completely assure not only the survival of Israel but a full and unrestricted opportunity to develop in agriculture and industry alike.

I have reason to believe, based on conversations with high level personnel in the Executive Branch of the government, that definite and vigorous efforts are under way to diminish the tensions and frictions and contrive an understanding that will bring comfort and assurance to all who are concerned over the future of the Israeli Republic.

Let me assure you for myself that this will have continuing attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear:

Thus far during President Eisenhower's tenure of office it has been very heartening to note his constant emphasis on and his devotion to constitutional procedures in dealing with the explosive problems in other parts of the world.

That, of course, means that any proposal for the use of force or the use of our troops abroad would be submitted to Congress for consideration. This course obviously recognizes that the exclusive power to declare war under the Constitution is lodged in the Congress and I know of no better safeguard than this in reassuring the country.

Let me add that this Congress is made up in large part of members who either served in war or who had some in military service. They know something about this grim business and would be cautious indeed in approaching any problem which might invite conflict. I do appreciate your sentiments on this all important problem.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Dear :

I appreciate your note expressing concern over the situation in the Middle East and frankly, I share that concern. I spent a little time in Israel in the summer of 1955 to have a first hand look at the problem and do hope that a practical and acceptable plan or device can be developed which will assure the survival and opportunity of Israel and also diminish the possibility of hostilities in this area. I can assure you this has been having very considerable attention.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen
ROIC
SLAUGHING IN HABAD
APRIL, 1956

Dear:

I have your telegram protesting the brutal slaying of Israeli youngsters in Habad Village on April 11 and have asked the State Department to investigate and protest and to take necessary steps to prevent a recurrence of similar outrages.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen