

United Nations

SECURITY  
COUNCIL

Nations Unies

CONSEIL  
DE SECURITE

UNRESTRICTED

S/816

2 June 1948

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

---

CABLEGRAM DATED 29 MAY 1948 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TRUCE  
COMMISSION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Chairman of the Security Council Truce Commission instructs me to transmit the following message to you:

The reading of my telegram of 28 May 1948 in the Security Council (a reading apparently exploited by foreign radio stations) seems to have greatly upset the Jewish Agency which denies the threat of reprisals.

In these circumstances I think I ought to give you the following particulars

1. On 27 May I received a visit from Mr. Ben Zolevi, President of the Jewish Council of State, accompanied by a person who called himself Governor of the Katamon Quarter; they told me that if the Arabs persisted in their systematic bombardment of the Jewish religious monuments in the Old City, the Jews who had hitherto refrained would be forced to use reprisals against the Arab Old City, thus endangering the Moslem and Christian religious monuments there.
2. On the same day I was approached by Chief Rabbi Herzog who told me of the destruction of the famous Hurva synagogue and gave me to understand that if the Arab shelling of the Jewish holy places were to continue the Jews would be forced to use reprisals.
3. Yesterday Mr. Ben Zolevi accompanied by a Colonel Gwor, introduced as "Jewish Military Governor of Jerusalem", went to see the Consul General of Iran, the doyen of the Consular Corps. They told him that unless the shelling of the Jewish holy places stopped within 24 hours the Jews would be forced to resort to reprisals and also shell the Old City and its monuments. The Jewish envoys asked the Iranian Consul General (Mr. Bernham) to bring this communication to the notice of the Arab High Command, which he did.

In view of the Jewish Agency's denial, I together with my French colleague obtained confirmation of this démarche from the Iranian Consul General this afternoon.

Jean NIEUWENHUYIS, Chairman of the Security Council Truce Commission:

-----