

CABLEGRAM DATED 18 JUNE 1948 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING TEXT OF AGREEMENT OF 16 JUNE CONCERNING CONTROL OF 'NO MAN'S LAND', JERUSALEM AREA, AND OTHER TRUCE DETAILS

For Information Security Council:

Following is the text of the agreement negotiated on 16 June 1948 regarding "No Man's Land", Jerusalem area, by the Truce Commission and the Chief Observer, Colonel Brunsson, assisted by Begley of the Secretariat.

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UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR FOR PALESTINE

16 JUNE 1948

Map References Survey of Palestine, Jerusalem

Sheets 1/10.000 and 1/5.000

Agreement reached in the presence of the United Nations Truce Commission and the United Nations Mediator's Chief Observer for Jerusalem between both the Arab and Jewish Military Commanders in the Jerusalem area with regard to the method of controlling the 'No Man's Land', and other details of the 28 days' truce commencing 11 June 1948

DEIRABUTOR

Notwithstanding the general principle agreed upon by both parties that the limits of the "No Man's Land" shall be fixed as far apart as possible, it is agreed that the special position of Deirabutor shall be governed by the following provisions:

- (1) A "No Man's Land" to be recognized and bounded on the upper road at Dierabutor Iaren (Jewish line,) and the lower ridge (Arab line) and defined on the ground by barbed wire to be fixed by each side respectively (See also *Mazes*).
- (2) No civilian population to be allowed to live in this zone. One Arab police station may, however, be allowed in the zone, in the house agreed upon the spot, and marked upon the map.
- (3) Limited Arab Legion patrols will be allowed upon the lower slopes of Deirabutor below the Arab barbed wire line, their number to be fixed by the Mediator.

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- (4) One of the United Nations Mediator's Observers for Jerusalem shall be responsible for visiting the area regularly to ensure the observance of these regulations.
- (5) No further fortifications shall be allowed upon the slopes of Dierabutor.
- (6) In the event of there being a prospect of the truce in Jerusalem being extended beyond the period of 28 days fixed by the Mediator, short notice of at least six hours shall be given to each side, and it shall be the responsibility of the United Nations Mediator's Observer to see that all Arab forces shall retire from their positions on the slopes of Dierabutor.
- (7) The United Nations Mediator's Observer may arrange for controlled civilian entry into the "No Man's Land" for a period of ten days ending at six P.M. Arab, eight P.M. Jewish time on the 26 June 1948, for the purpose of removing personal possessions.

ARAB MUNICIPAL RECORDS

With regard to the request of the Arab Military Commander that access be given to Arab municipal records of a non-military nature at present in the municipal buildings, either now under Jewish military control or in "No Man's Land", it is agreed as follows:

- A. Records in the buildings in "No Man's Land": These may be removed with due notice being given as to time and date, by approved Arab municipal representatives, under the supervision of the United Nations Mediator's staff.
- B. Records in buildings under Jewish military control: These may be removed by approved Arab municipal representatives, under Jewish safe conduct, in the presence of the United Nations Mediator's staff, but subject to Jewish military supervision and censorship.

ARTICLES OF RELIGIOUS VALUE TO JEWS LOST IN THE OLD CITY

The Arab Legion Commander agrees to make every effort to recover articles of religious significance to Jews, such as the Scrolls of the Law, which were lost in the Old City, and to return them to Jewish religious representatives. The Jewish Commander, for his part, agrees to continue to respect buildings and properties sacred to other faiths which are in his own area.

DISABLED ARAB AMBULANCES

It is agreed that the disabled Arab ambulances below Notre Dame may be removed under the supervision of the United Nations Mediator's officers to the Jewish and Arab Commanders respectively, subject to United Nations inspection to ensure that the ambulance was not used for military purposes. It is agreed that upon removal of the ambulance, which now constitutes an obstacle, an equivalent road block may be made.

/NABLUS ROAD

NABLUS ROAD BETWEEN ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL AND ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

It is agreed that, as this road was being used by Arab forces at the time the truce came into effect, it may continue to be used as a right of way, but not for any other military purposes.

WELL IN THE 'NO MAN'S LAND' BETWEEN THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY AND
THE GERMAN HOSPITAL

It is agreed that unarmed civilians may use this well during the period of the truce.

NEW GATE TO THE OLD CITY

It is agreed that between the hours of six A.M. Arab, eight A.M. Jewish time and six P.M. Arab and eight P.M. Jewish time on 17 June 1948, the Arab Legion Commander may close the new gate into the Old City. It is agreed that, once closed, it may not be reopened during the period of the truce without the agreement of both military commanders.

BEIT SAFFA HOSPITAL

During the period of the truce, the Jewish Commander suggests that the Arab Hospital at Beit Saffa shall be respected as a medical institution, provided the Arab Commander, after due consideration, agrees to the necessary safeguards.

JERUSALEM, 16 June 1948

Signed:

Abdullah Tell, Arab Military Commander

David Shaltiel, Jewish Military Commander

In the presence of:

Jean Nieuwenhuys, Chairman, United Nations Truce
Commission

Nils Brunsson, Chief, United Nations Mediator's Observers
for Jerusalem"

