
CABLEGRAM DATED 18 JUNE 1948 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING TWO AGREEMENTS CONCERNING
ABANDONED BRITISH MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Following for information of the Security Council:

Rapid British evacuation of the Haifa area creates the problem of friction regarding British camps being abandoned. Some are of military value, others are not. Observer Captain Eddy and Reedman averted threatening British-Jewish clash at Camp 153 on Wednesday, 16 June, by personal intervention. The only practical solution seemed to be assumption by the United Nations of responsibility for the period of the truce. In consequence, two agreements were signed 18 June by the Mediator and General MacMillan for the British at Haifa, and Mediator and Shertok for Jews at Tel Aviv, respectively. Texts follow:

Agreement made this _____ day of June 1948 between Count Bernadotte for and on behalf of the United Nations (hereinafter called the United Nations) of the one part, and Lieutenant-General G.H.A. MacMillan, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., General Officer commanding His Britannic Majesty's Forces in Palestine (hereinafter called the General) of the other part.

1. Whereas for the purpose of implementing a truce in Palestine the United Nations Mediator has on the 16th June 1948 requested the General to hand over to the United Nations Mediator on behalf of the United Nations all buildings, camps and areas of military strategic importance now occupied or controlled by the General;
2. And whereas the United Nations Mediator considers that Camps 137, 141, 142, 148, 153 and 161 may be of strategic importance and have requested that these should be handed over accordingly;
3. And whereas on 11th June 1948 the General made an agreement relating to these Camps, copy of which is set out in the first schedule hereto;
4. And whereas the General states that, insofar as Camp 153 is concerned, this Camp was on 12 June 1948, upon its evacuation by the British forces, occupied by Jews who had been instructed by him, prior to the receipt of the above-mentioned request by the United Nations Mediator to evacuate this Camp by 0900 hours on 16 June 1948, which instructions it was his intention

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to enforce by the troops at his command, as such occupation was in his opinion an infringement of the policy which he had announced at the commencement of his occupation and also an infringement of the rights of the owners and the obligations which he had undertaken to them;

5. And whereas the General has agreed to comply with the above-mentioned request of the United Nations Mediator on the terms and conditions hereinafter appearing;

Now it is hereby agreed as follows:

1. The General will hand over to the United Nations Mediator the buildings, camps and installations in the Haifa enclose which are now occupied or controlled by British military forces and which he considers to be of any strategic military importance.
2. Camps 137, 141, 142, 148, 153 and 161 shall be deemed to be included in the aforesaid undertaking.
3. The General will insofar as it is possible give to the United Nations Mediator prior information of his intention to evacuate buildings, camps and areas comprised in the aforesaid undertaking and will, subsequent to their evacuation and to the extent only that it is possible for him to do so, having regard to the prior need of evacuating his forces as speedily as possible, afford such facilities as he is able for the guarding of these camps.
4. The General will, insofar as it is possible, endeavour to ensure that prior to their evacuation no damage will be done to the aforesaid buildings, camps and areas.
5. The United Nations Mediator takes note of the General's request that, insofar as he is prevented by the request of the United Nations Mediator to hand over to them the buildings, camps and areas mentioned in this agreement and his acquiescence in that request, from carrying out his obligations or the obligations of His Britannic Majesty's Government to the owners of these buildings, the United Nations should indemnify His Britannic Majesty's Government from any damage that will thereby ensue to it.

FIRST SCHEDULE

We, the responsible representatives of the inhabitants of the village of Tirek, Haifa District, hereby agree to take over all installations, buildings and constructions erected on or work done in the lands owned by inhabitants of Tireh village known by the title of Camp 161, Camp 153, Camp 148, Camp 142, Camp 141 and Camp 137, and in consideration for the installations, buildings, construction and work referred to above, we jointly and severally on our own behalf and on behalf of all the inhabitants

/or owners

or owners of land and/or trees occupied by and situated within the said Camps 161, 153, 148, 142, 141 and 137, accept the said buildings and works in lieu of all claims outstanding at this date for rent, cost of reinstatement of land, compensation for damage or other cause whatsoever and renounce all such claims.

Further, we jointly and severally on our own behalf and on behalf of the inhabitants of Tيره village undertake to indemnify the military authorities for any expenses or claim of any kind whether for compensation, rent, reinstatement or otherwise that may be made against them in respect of any of the land referred to in this agreement. Provided that this undertaking does not apply to any land owned by Jews at the date of this agreement.

The military authorities undertake to have the block and parcel boundaries reaffixed on the land in accordance with existing block and parcel plans, at a future date when such work of survey can be undertaken.

Dated this day _____ June 1948.

In witness whereof the parties above named have hereunder set their hands.

The following is a memorandum of the arrangement made on 16 June 1948 between the United Nations Mediator for Palestine and the Provisional Government of Israel, consequent upon agreement in relation to the same subject matter between the General Officer Commanding British Forces in Palestine and the United Nations Mediator:

1. As the British military forces withdraw from the present Haifa enclave, such areas, installations and controls as are at present occupied or worked by the British forces which in the opinion of the United Nations Mediator would improve the relative military strength of the Israeli military forces, will be taken provisionally into the custody of the Mediator for the duration of the truce.
2. As and when British military forces advise the United Nations Mediator of their intention to release any area, installation or control of the above-mentioned description, the United Nations Mediator will require the Provisional Government of Israel to guarantee that during the period of the truce such camps, installation or control will not, except as may be approved by the United Nations Mediator, be used by Israeli military forces.
3. The Provisional Government of Israel undertakes to provide for normal police protection of the above-mentioned areas, installations or controls such security forces as the Mediator may determine.
4. As regards Camp 153, the Israeli forces now in occupation will withdraw

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from the Camp prior to 0900 hours local time 17th June 1948, and Israeli forces will not reoccupy that Camp until the British forces have evacuated Haifa or until the British military authorities inform the United Nations Mediator that they are no longer able satisfactorily to provide for its security.

