

SECURITY
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S/938

2 August 1948

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

TELEGRAM DATED 31 JULY 1948 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRUCE COMMISSION TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Notwithstanding our concern to avoid embarrassing the Mediator, we consider it incumbent upon us to point out to the Security Council the serious consequences that might result from the Arabs' persistence in refusing to allow water and food supplies to reach Jerusalem.

We do not know whether the present truce is governed by an agreement pursuant to the resolution of 15 July. It is true, however, that the agreement governing the first truce obliged the Arabs to allow water to pass from Naselain to Jerusalem.

That clause was never observed during the first truce, and has not been observed up to the fifteenth day of the second. As the Arab Legion holds only a single pumping station and a small section of the pipe-line in the Latrun sector, there is reason to fear that in utter despair, and under pressure from the civil population of Jerusalem, which has been strictly rationed in water since 10 May, the Jews may launch an attack on that sector.

The Government of Transjordan, to which I recently made representations, claims that it is not bound to respect the clause on water and convoys so long as the Jews do not conform the clause on the demilitarization of Jerusalem. The Amman Government further added that it could take no decision without the previous agreement of the Arab League.

We are not in a position to say whether the situation with regard to the two questions at issue, i.e. water and convoys on the one hand, and demilitarization on the other, should be settled.

We think it is for the Security Council to take an urgent decision on the matter.

Nieuwenhuys

Note: This telegram was transmitted by telephone from the French delegation.