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LETTER DATED 13 JULY 1948 FROM THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE
FOR PALESTINE AND PRESIDENT OF THE PALESTINE ARAB DELEGATION TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING A MEMORANDUM
OF VIOLATIONS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND THE TRUCE
AGREEMENT BY THE JEWS IN PALESTINE

I beg to submit herewith a Memorandum on the Violations of the
Resolutions of the Security Council and the Truce Agreement by the Jews
in Palestine.

I shall be very grateful if you will circulate this memorandum to the
honorable members of the Security Council and to the representatives of
other delegations.

(Signed) Jamal Husseini

Vice-Chairman Arab Higher Committee
for Palestine and President of the
Palestine Arab Delegation to the
United Nations

/MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM ON THE VIOLATION
OF THE TRUCE BY THE JEWS

SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
BY THE ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE DELEGATION

13 July 1948

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/MEMORANDUM ON

MEMORANDUM ON THE VIOLATION OF TRUCE BY THE JEWS

The Arabs have been at all times anxious and willing to find a peaceful and just solution to the Palestine problem. With all good will and sincerity, they have co-operated with the United Nations and vehemently pleaded for upholding the principles embodied in the United Nations Charter. When the Security Council started its deliberations for arranging a Truce in Palestine, the Arabs co-operated in the most constructive manner. When the Trusteeship Council and the Truce Commission were discussing cease-fire and Truce in Jerusalem, the Arabs submitted constructive suggestions and co-operated fully with these bodies.

Zionist propagandists and some politicians, who are led under the influence of power politics to speak against their conscience, are spreading the falsehood that it is the Arabs who are responsible for the resumption of fighting in Palestine. These allegations are not supported by the events in Palestine. On the contrary, events of the last month in that country show that it was the Zionists who have obstructed the Truce, have violated the Truce Agreement and have acted contrary to the letter and spirit of the resolutions of the United Nations organs.

JEWS VIOLATE THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE RESOLUTION

ADOPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE 17TH OF APRIL, 1948

On the 17th of April, the Security Council adopted a resolution for the "immediate cessation of acts of violence in Palestine, and to establish conditions of peace and order in that country". It called upon Arabs and Jews to cease all activities of a military or para-military nature, to refrain from bringing into Palestine armed men or fighting personnel or importing or acquiring arms and ammunition, to refrain from any political activity which might prejudice the rights, claims or positions of either community, and to refrain from actions which would endanger the safety of the Holy Places.

The Arabs accepted the said resolution and were ready and willing to co-operate fully in effecting the Truce. The Zionists, on the other hand, rejected the said resolution under the plea that they could not abstain from their political activity to ensure the establishment of a Jewish national home. Consequently they committed many irresponsible and criminal acts which constitute a violation of the letter and spirit of the said resolution.

On the 8th of May an Arab delegation, representing the Arab League, agreed with the British High Commissioner and the Truce Commission to effect a cease-fire in Jerusalem and, consequently, the Arabs ceased fire

/on the

on the 9th of May. On the 12th of May the British High Commissioner communicated to the Arabs the Truce conditions concerning Jerusalem, which contained arrangements to cease-fire, and for Truce on the basis of keeping the status quo. The Arabs accepted these arrangements unconditionally. The Jews accepted half-heartedly, and the cease-fire was actually kept for two days. But the Jews, in violation of these arrangements, started to occupy new buildings and places in Jerusalem such as the Post Office and other Government buildings.

In order to obstruct Truce negotiations, the Jews attacked the French Consulate, the meeting place of the Security Council Truce Commission. In a cable dated 16th of May, addressed to the President of the Security Council, the French Consul General stated:

"I have vainly protested to the Jewish Agency about the attacks committed against the Consulate General by Jewish posts which have operated since 14 May noon. These attacks seem to have for their purpose the prevention of the functioning of our observation post, which had noted the violation of the cease-fire order by the Jews and which order would have allowed the arrival of Arab delegates." (See S/P.V.296).

This breach of the Truce is clearly described in a cable by Joseph W. McCabe, member of the Secretariat of the Truce Commission, sent on the 18th of May and received by the U. S. Mission on the 19th of May, 1948. Mr. McCabe states:

"It was understood that both Jews and Arabs agreed to the continuation of the cease-fire on the basis of the status quo.... The Jewish Liaison Officer was asked to explain why the Jews were moving into buildings in Jerusalem in contravention of the status quo.... The Commission (Truce Commission) unanimously deplored this move, which had been a source of considerable embarrassment, in view of the Arabs' assumption that the Jewish movements into vacated buildings, which were obviously liable to misinterpretation by Arabs, could be regarded as a breach of the status quo agreements."

On the 14th of May the Jews in breach of the Security Council resolution, declared a so-called Jewish State in a part of Palestine.

On the 14th of May also, the Jews broke the Truce and attacked the old city of Jerusalem and engaged the Arabs in fierce fighting. The same day Jews started on an offensive against most of the Arab quarters in the New City of Jerusalem.

During one month - between the 15th of April and the 14th of May, 1948 - the Jews looted property and furniture from Arab dwellings and business /premises.

premises. They plundered Arab goods from shops and storehouses in Haifa, Jaffa, Tiberias, Safad and Jerusalem.

In violation of the Security Council Truce resolution, the Jews not only endangered the safety of the Holy Places but desecrated, damaged and destroyed a considerable number of these Holy Places. According to the manifesto, issued in Jerusalem on the 1st of June, 1948, by the Union of Christian Churches in Palestine, the Jews occupied and used ten Christian religious and humanitarian places and institutions in Jerusalem as military bases. They destroyed or damaged fourteen Holy Places and religious institutions by their shellfire. The manifesto of the Christian Union runs:

"We can state that the largest part of the shells falling on the Holy Sepulchre and on churches, convents and Christian institutions are of Jewish origin.... To declare the truth and an objective fact we add: The Arabs have stated they respected the Holy Places, the churches, the convents and the Red Cross institutions. In fact, they have respected them up to the present time."

VIOLATION BY JEWS OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
OF THE 29TH OF MAY AND THE TRUCE AGREEMENT OF JUNE 11, 1948

On the 27th of May, 1948 the Security Council adopted a resolution calling on the United Nations Mediator "to make contact with both parties as soon as the cease-fire is in force, with a view to making recommendations to the Security Council about an eventual settlement for Palestine".

As a result of his negotiations with Arabs and Jews, the Mediator, with the consent of both parties, arranged a four weeks' Truce with a cease-fire to become effective at 6 a.m. on the 11th of June, 1948. The Truce Agreement contained conditions, with a view to keeping the status quo, without military advantage to either side.

While the Arabs upheld the Truce conditions, the Jews violated the Security Council resolution of May 29th and the Truce Agreement in every way:

11th of June, 1948

In violation of the Truce, which became effective at 6 a.m., A.m.t., Jewish forces continued firing on Syrian lines at Mishmar Hay Yarden until 8 a.m., A.m.t.

After ceasing fire only at 9 a.m., Jewish forces again at 10 a.m. resumed firing on Syrian lines and bombarded the village of Dardarah.

At 10:45 a.m., a Jewish plane raided Damascus and dropped bombs over Damascus and caused some damage. The Syrian Government

/reported

that the Jewish forces attacked Lebanese positions at Shajara, Quados and Malike.

14th of June, 1948

Contrary to the status quo, the Jews occupied the Syrian Catholic Monastery, midway between the New Gate and Damascus Gate in Jerusalem.

16th-17th of June, 1948

The Zionists, of Kfar Shamir and Kfar Szold, attacked with armored cars and machine guns the defenseless inhabitants of the villages of Khairie, Walid, Dumarah, Mouffaraha, Hizawie and Alabsie, preventing them from reaping their crops.

18th of June, 1948

Without any provocation, the Zionists attacked the Arab village of Zingharia.

21st of June, 1948

IST (a landing ship Tank) Altalena, under the Panama flag, first spotted by United Nations aerial observer off shore near Nathanya on the morning of the 21st of June, at which time it appeared to be unloading boxes resembling ammunition cases. United Nations observer reported that he saw 200 men in khaki around the pier and trucks unloading cases resembling ammunition or rifle cases and that some material was being stored under the pier. Farther inland, cases were being dumped in the fields and covered with straw in the orchard.

At 9 p.m. on the 21st of June, a United Nations plane was sent to the scene and observed that unloading was still proceeding. The plane was fired at by Jewish forces. United Nations observers from Tel Aviv, on going to Nathanya, were prevented from entering the area. On contacting officials of the Jewish Agency, the United Nations observers were told at 8.30 p.m. of the 21st that they could not be allowed to go to the scene with the feeble excuse that they could not be allowed to observe the combat technique of the Jewish Army, or its equipment.

It was not until 9 a.m. on the 22nd of June, i.e. after the lapse of 48 hours of unloading the ship, that United Nations observers were allowed to go to Nathanya, only to find the LST had departed. The United Nations ground observer reported, on his return, that he had been prevented from entering the area by "regular" Jewish forces and was informed that "regular" Jewish forces had taken over the material which had been unloaded.

/After unloading

After unloading most of the ship's cargo, the Haganah and Irgun Svai Leumi staged a spectacular scene of conflict, in order to throw dust in the eyes of the Security Council and world public opinion, so that the Jewish Agency would come with the apology that it was the Irgun which was responsible for this violation.

According to authentic reports, the Jews unloaded big quantities of arms, ammunition and tanks. All the cargo was taken over by Haganah and Irgun.

Moshe Shertock of the Jewish Agency, in his letter to Col. Bonde, United Nations observer, dated the 20th of June, states: "We were satisfied that no war materials had been unloaded at Kfar Vitkin, and that the whole cargo which was on the boat when it came to Tel Aviv was consumed by fire."

This deliberate and shameless falsehood made by Moshe Shertock, in an official letter to the United Nations observer, is contradicted and exposed by the following facts: (a) that unloading of the war material and ammunition continued for 48 hours in Nathayna and that it was actually seen by United Nations observers at the early hours of the morning of the 21st of June, by the United Nations plane at 9 p.m. of the same day, and continued throughout the night of the 21st-22nd of June; (b) that the United Nations observers were excluded from the area and not allowed to enter the area where the ship was unloading until it had actually departed to Tel Aviv on the morning of the 22nd of June.

The falsehood perpetrated by Moshe Shertock is exposed also by the report of the United Nations Mediator to the Security Council in documents S/861, July 1, 1948. The Mediator says: "The evidence indicates that at Nathanya, the Irgun did land war material, and that the regular Jewish forces took this material over following the surrender of the Irgun forces. It must be assumed that this material remains in the possession of the Jewish forces." For full details of this incident see the above document.

In the above-mentioned letter to Col. Bonde, Moshe Shertock admits that, according to Irgun Zvai Leumi leaders, about 800 persons had landed with the cargo.

25th of June, 1948

The Jews attacked the Arab village of Sha'b in the district of Nazareth, in spite of the Truce. The Arabs drove back the attackers with heavy losses.

The French News Agency reported from Rhodes that six planes filled with Jews were held by the Greek authorities. The pilots said that they were flying to Palestine. No news of them was heard later.

28th of June, 1948

Husni Barrazi, Syrian Minister of the Interior, reported in Cairo that "Zionist forces recently attacked the town of Barwa, about 7-1/2 miles along the coast inside Palestine, and occupied it in defiance of the Truce."

Following an inspection tour in the Old City of Jerusalem, the correspondent of Al-Ahram in Amman wrote that in Jerusalem he met a member of the International Red Cross who had returned from Jaffa. He was with a mission carrying food to the Arabs who had remained in Jaffa after its fall to the Zionists. The International Red Cross representative related that in Jaffa he was told by an Arab woman belonging to an upper class family that all the Arab men were pressed to work in Jewish military camps from morn till eve.

1st of July, 1948

The Arab Higher Committee received the following complaint from the peasants of the village of Maghar al-Hayt in the District of Safad: "The farmers of Maghar al-Hayt, in the district of Safad, went out to reap their crops, and when they returned to their village the Jews in the camp of Rosh Bena, in al-Ja'una near this village, fired at them."

3rd of July, 1948

The Arab Higher Committee in Cairo was informed by the secretary of the Arab Relief Society of Jerusalem that, accompanied by Hagannah troops, Zionists plundered the medical supplies, bandages and large supplies of food that were stored in Mamullah and in the Orthodox Club in Upper Baq'a. The plundered supplies are estimated at £30,000 (\$120,000). An official protest by the Arab Higher Committee was lodged with the representative of the International Red Cross in Cairo.

8th of July, 1948

The Jews, contrary to the Truce Agreement and in spite of the United Nations control and supervision, took into Jerusalem large amounts of foodstuffs, fuel, arms and ammunition. They have changed the status quo to the disadvantage of the Arabs. Dr. Bernard Joseph

/of the Jewish Agency

of the Jewish Agency, as reported by a correspondent of The New York Times on July 9, 1948, was publicly boasting about this accumulation of stocks, food and fuel. Dr. Joseph is reported to have said that the task of the Jewish community was greatly fortified by this "accumulation of food and a fuel stockpile, but water reserves available into city were such as could last 'only for a certain period,' according to the chairman of Jerusalem's Jewish Emergency Committee, Dr. Bernard Joseph, 49, formerly of Montreal, who has practiced law here for twenty-five years.

"Dr. Joseph outlined Jerusalem's supply position in anticipation of resumption of the Arabs' blockade and bombardment of the city.

"As spokesman for the committee, which enabled the almost 100,000 Jewish inhabitants to withstand the month of heavy shelling that halted with the truce June 11, Dr. Joseph said that from the outset of his negotiations with Count Bernadotte he had insisted upon the supplying of the normal quantities of provisions and fuel that the city consumed before the Palestine strife began seven months ago."

The correspondent continued: "I told the American consul that the Jews of Jerusalem were not displaced persons living in an American Army camp in Europe, nor were we a conquered community," said Dr. Joseph. "It would have been humiliating for us to accept the conditions which the consul endeavored to impose."

.....

"Turning to the supply position at this time, Dr. Joseph said there was now sufficient food on hand to ensure larger rations, including adequate flour for bread. While intimating that the water reserves were limited, he did not specify how long they could last nor indicate what would happen after the reservoirs were exhausted."
9th of July, 1948

The Chairman of the Truce Commission cabled from Jerusalem on July 9, the following:

"On the retiring of the United Nations Observers the afternoon of July 8, a Haganah force moved into King David Hotel in spite of United Nations flag still flying and some United Nations personnel present, thus committing an obvious breach of the Truce Agreement. Members of the Security Council Truce Commission thus decided to move into the building with a symbolic guard of three French and three American citizens.

/When informed

When informed of the decision, a representative of the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem replied that he had force at his disposal and intended to use it to remove members of the Truce Commission and guards. Under these circumstances we await instructions of the Security Council in order to avoid a grave incident.

Chairman, Truce Commission"
(Document S/877, 9th July 1948)

ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE DELEGATION

