

NOTE DATED 15 JULY 1948 FROM THE ACTING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE FROM THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TRUCE COMMISSION TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE
MILITARY SITUATION IN PALESTINE

The Acting United States Representative at the Seat of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to transmit the following message from the Chairman of the Palestine Truce Commission for the attention of the President of the Security Council. This message has been received by the United States Department of State on relay from Jerusalem under date of 14 July.

"Progress of Jews in Western Palestine steady and regular. Alleged capture of Ramle on Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road would consolidate seizure of Lydda airdrome and town Dascramre.

"Jews victoriously fighting Iraqi troops near Tel Aviv have retaken Ras El Ein pumping station the beginning of water pipeline feeding Jerusalem from coast. It was this station Arabs refused to restart during truce period, thus committing a serious breach of June 9th agreement.

"In Jerusalem situation on whole calm and quiet. We fear however between today noon and tomorrow night, the possible beginning of the Jerusalem truce period, a powerful attack of Jewish force on Old City.

"Having remained faithful in general to resolutions November 29 concerning international character of city Jews have been especially incensed by eventuality of control of town being handed over to Arabs.

"They have therefore made up their minds to attempt to seize the rest of town before truce period comes into force in order to appear at peace negotiations with major trump card in hand.

"This confirms the end of my message of Monday last, stressing that unless Security Council acted immediately and vigorously, the international character of Jerusalem appeared to my colleagues and I to be dangerously threatened.

"On other hand, one of my American colleagues assistants having crossed the lines into Old City yesterday, said that he found life there almost normal, damage by mortar shells negligible and Arab troops in occupation, calm and confident."

