

United Nations

Nations Unies

**SECURITY
COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
DE SECURITE**

UNRESTRICTED

S/924

28 July 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CABLEGRAM DATED 27 JULY 1948, FROM THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE DEATH OF OLE HELGE BAKKE,
UNITED NATIONS GUARD

FOR PRESIDENT SECURITY COUNCIL:

ON MY RETURN FROM LAKE SUCCESS I INSTITUTED INQUIRIES INTO THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATH OF UNITED NATIONS GUARD OLE HELGE BAKKE WHILE
SERVING THE UNITED NATIONS AT MOUNT SCOPUS. I HAVE THE HONOUR TO TRANSMIT
THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM BRIGADIER LASH OF THE ARAB LEGION IN EXPLANATION
OF THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT:

"ARAB LEGION TO COLONEL BRUNSSON, MEDIATOR'S PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE:

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER OF
JULY FOURTEEN CONCERNING THE DEATH OF UNITED NATIONS DRIVER BAKKE.
AFTER STUDYING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY INTO THE
INCIDENT, I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT BAKKE HAS BEEN SHOT
BY AN ARAB LEGION SOLDIER WHO WAS EXCITED BY ENEMY TMG FIRE. THE
COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE COMPANY CONCERNED HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF
HIS COMMAND AND IS UNDER ARREST AWAITING TRIAL BY COURT-MARTIAL.
THE ENTIRE COMPANY OF WHICH THE GUILTY SOLDIER IS A MEMBER HAS
BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM THE CITY OF JERUSALEM. I HAVE TO EXPRESS
MY PROFOUND REGRET THAT TROOPS UNDER MY COMMAND SHOULD HAVE BEEN
INVOLVED IN SUCH AN INCIDENT.

"I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BE SIR, YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT,
BRIGADIER COMMANDER LASH."

COUNT FOLKE BERNADOTTE
UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR

