

CABLEGRAM DATED 7 JUNE 1948 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR  
IN PALESTINE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The following is the text of the note sent 7 June to the Arab States and the Provisional Government of Israel:

"1. I have the honour to inform you that, in pursuance of the action of the Security Council at its 311th meeting, 2 June, authorizing the Mediator to fix the effective date for the truce in Palestine, and following extensive consultations on this matter with representatives of the two parties, and with the support of the Truce Commission, I herewith give formal notice of the effective date and hour for the commencement of the cease-fire and truce in Palestine as envisaged in the resolution of the Security Council of 29 May.

"2. The effective date and hour of the cease-fire and truce, including the application of supervision envisaged in the resolution of 29 May, shall be Friday, 11 June 1948, at six o'clock in the a.m. GMT. As of this date and hour, there is to be cessation of all acts of armed force in Palestine for a period of four weeks and all commanders in the field should be notified accordingly.

"3. In view of the urgency of the time factor and the necessity of giving final confirmation of this decision in ample time to each party concerned, I must ask that notification to me of your acceptance or rejection of this date and hour shall be in my hands not later than Wednesday noon GMT, 9 June. If this decision is accepted by all parties, final confirmation will be dispatched to you by me not later than 6 p.m. GMT, Wednesday, 9 June, in order to reach you on the same day. Should the decision be rejected, or accepted only conditionally, by any of the parties, no further consultations on the matter will be undertaken by me, but I will promptly report the circumstances fully to the Security Council for such action as that body may deem appropriate. It is, of course, my earnest hope that the decision will be accepted unconditionally.

"4. In the event of acceptance of this decision, the date and hour for public announcement of the beginning of this truce will be communicated to you in my message of final confirmation 9 June, in

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order that publication shall be made simultaneously by all concerned.

"5. This decision has been taken in the light of the following considerations:

"(1) The clear intent of the truce as envisaged in the Security Council resolution of 29 May is to bring about the cessation of hostilities without prejudice to the rights, claims and position of either Jews or Arabs, and to ensure that no military advantage shall accrue to either side as a result of the application of the truce;

"(2) The President of the Security Council has informed me that all parties concerned have accepted the resolution of 29 May unconditionally, and that the Mediator should fix the date for the cease-fire in consultation with the two parties and the Truce Commission in as short a period as possible;

"(3) I am aware, of course, that each side, in accepting the resolution, notified the Security Council of certain 'assumptions and explanations' in connection with some of the provisions of the resolution, and that as a result, there were conflicting views of the intent of particular clauses, especially those relating to 'fighting personnel and men of military age';

"(4) In the course of the amicable consultation with representatives of the parties concerned on 3, 4, 5 and 6 June, I exerted every effort to reconcile these divergent interpretations, and as a result of these consultations and explanations and interpretations made to me by each party, I am firmly convinced that any remaining differences are altogether insufficient to warrant any further delay in the beginning of the truce.

"6. As I have carefully explained to each side, it is my earnest intention to apply the truce and controls required in such a manner as to ensure that no military advantage will accrue to either side during the period of the truce or as a result of its application. To this end, I have made certain interpretations of the resolution and certain decisions as to its application which have been thoroughly explained to representatives of both sides and which in summary follow:

"(1) No fighting personnel, which shall include persons identified as belonging to organized military units as well as all persons bearing arms, shall be introduced into any of the Arab States or into any part of Palestine.

"(2) As regards men of military age, the Mediator shall  
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exercise his discretion during the period of the truce in determining whether men of military age are represented among immigrants in such numbers as to give one side a military advantage if their entry is permitted, and in such event shall refuse them entry. Should men of military age be introduced in numbers necessarily limited by the application of the foregoing principle, they are to be kept in camps during the period of the truce under the surveillance of observers of the Mediator, and shall not be mobilized in the armed forces or given military or para-military training during such period.

"(3) The Mediator shall exercise, to the fullest extent practicable, a check on all immigration at the ports of embarkation and debarkation, and shall place United Nations observers in ships bearing immigrants, and, to this end, shall be notified well in advance as to the port of embarkation of any ship bearing immigrants.

"(4) During the first week following the truce, in consideration of the time required for setting up the controls essential to effective application of the resolution, the Mediator shall exercise his discretion as regards the entry of any immigrants irrespective of age or sex.

"(5) Movement of troops or war materials from one interested country to another, or closer to the borders of Palestine or to the fighting fronts in Palestine are prohibited during the period of the truce.

"(6) All fighting fronts and lines shall remain stabilized during the period of the truce, and there shall be no increase in the fighting strength deployed along the fronts and lines, nor in the war materials on hand. Routine replacement of personnel may be undertaken.

"(7) War materials shall not be imported into the country or territory of any interested party.

"(8) Relief to populations of both sides in municipal areas which have suffered severely from the conflict, as in Jerusalem and Jaffa, shall be administered by an International Red Cross Committee in such a manner as to ensure that reserves of stocks of essential supplies shall not be substantially greater or less at the end of the truce than they were at its beginning.

"(9) All warlike acts, whether on land, sea or air, shall be prohibited during the truce.

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"7. I recognize fully that both the effectiveness of the truce and its fairness depend in large measure on the manner in which it is supervised and applied. A detailed plan for its application is in preparation and will be put into operation when the truce begins. No doubt numerous questions will arise in connection with the details of supervising the truce. Consultations on such matters of detail may be undertaken when the truce is in effect.

"8. I am deeply appreciative of the spirit of co-operation manifested by both sides in the difficult negotiations over the truce. I trust that this same spirit will continue in order that the truce may be achieved and the larger work of mediation may proceed constructively in an atmosphere of peace in Palestine."

(Signed) Bernadotte

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