

SECURITY
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30 July 1948
ORIGINAL: ENGLISHCABLEGRAM DATED 30 JULY 1948 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING COMPLAINTS
OF ALLEGED TRUCE VIOLATIONS

Following from Mediator for President of the Security Council:

"First complaints received from Rhodes from either side against alleged violations of the truce beginning 18 July were communicated to you by my telegrams (S/910 and S/913)." Have since received new complaints including copies of those addressed directly to Lake Success by the Syrian Foreign Minister.

The arrival of the first contingent of observers on the spot has permitted me to start both investigations and settlement of the local incidents.

(1) Conditions on the Syrian front particularly in the Banias region from 19 to 22 July has given rise to complaints and countercomplaints including protests by Syria against air raids. UN observers reported on 25 July that there had been no incident on that front for the last 48 hours.

(2) Following serious situation which arose in South Haifa has now apparently calmed down owing to the prompt action of the UN observers. On 22 July a complaint against the attack since 20 July of the Arab villages of Jaba, Ein Ghazal and Ijzim South Haifa was handed to Mediator's representative in Beirut. On 23 July he received a new complaint concerning aerial bombing of the same villages on 21 and 22 July. The same complaint with a request for an inquiry was received by the Mediator on 24 July from the Secretary-General of the Arab League who had been informed of alleged air attacks by the Iraqi Commander in Amman. On 25 July a UN observer attached to Iraqi Headquarters in Aulus reported a complaint of attacks against three villages adding that they were occupied by Arab irregulars supported by Iraqi army which threatened retaliatory air raids unless attacks ceased immediately. UN observer informed Jewish authorities of the above threat. On 27 July the following telegram was received from the Mediator's representative in Beirut:

/"The Secretary-General

"The Secretary-General of the Arab League notified personally serious incidents Jewish attacks Jaba, Ein Ghazal, Ijzim, 400,000 refugees and tens of thousands captured and massacred, urgent actions required or Arab action follows".

An investigation was immediately ordered and following report was received 28 July 1948 from the Mediator's Acting Chief of Staff in Haifa:

"In reference of the request made by the Mediator that investigation be made of reports by the Secretary-General of the Arab League regarding the actions taken against Arabs in the villages of Ein Ghazal, Jaba, Ijzim, an observer party consisting of seven UN Officer observers were dispatched to investigate on the morning of 28 July. As a result of this inspection no evidence was found to support claims of massacres and capture. The following evidence was found:

1. All three villages are deserted except for one woman who appeared to be insane.
2. In the village of Jaba four small stone buildings were wholly or partially destroyed as a result of the explosion of small aerial bombs, artillery or mortar.
3. Two bodies found in Ein Ghazal. The body of a woman appeared to have been killed by an explosion. Body of man apparently killed by a gun shot. Bodies about ten days.
4. Jewish Liaison Officers admitted that four Arabs in village of Jaba are prisoners and nine in the village of Ein Ghazal had been killed during a 'police' raid three days ago. Will make more definite report later."

(3) The situation in Jerusalem on 26 July reported by the Mediator's representative is as follows: no action by regular troops; action by irregulars continues with sniping on small scale.

(4) UN representative in Jerusalem reported the first Jerusalem convoy since the truce was renewed was turned back at Latrun on 29 July by Arab soldiers and civilians. The matter is being investigated and taken up with the Arab authorities.

(5) Note from Egyptian Prime Minister received 30 July alleged two landing craft loaded ammunition and war material left Bari, Italy on 26 July for Palestine. Acting Chief of Staff instructed to take necessary measures involving observers on land, sea and air and report cabled attention Tel Aviv.

Other incidents brought to my notice by Governments similarly investigated and as far as possible settled on the spot.