

SECURITY  
COUNCILCONSEIL  
DE SECURITES/937  
2 August 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 29 JULY FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL TO THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING  
EMPLOYEES OF THE JERUSALEM ELECTRIC CORPORATION

At the 340th meeting of the Security Council held on Tuesday, 27 July, I undertook to clarify certain matters arising from the statement of the United Kingdom representative with respect to the arrest and trial of five employees of the Jerusalem Electric Corporation. I am now in a position to make a preliminary comment on one of the central points in that discussion.

2. In the course of his statement on 27 July, the representative of the United Kingdom said:

"The Truce Commission has previously informed us that the building from which the five men were abducted was... protected by the flags of the three Powers represented on the Commission. The abduction was consequently an affront to the prestige of the Truce Commission." (S/P.V. 340, p. 46)

In the subsequent discussion, the representatives of the United States, Belgium and France emphasized that respect for United Nations premises was a paramount motive of the Security Council's concern with this incident.

3. The Security Council may therefore be glad to hear that no issue of disrespect to the flags of the Truce Commission is involved.

Sir Alexander Cadogan's statement that the Truce Commission had "previously informed" the Council that "the building from which the five men were abducted was... protected by the flags of the three Powers represented on the Commission" must be based on a misunderstanding. No such information relating to the place of these arrests is conveyed by the Truce Commission in any of its published messages on this question (S/898; S/905; S/915; S/920.)

4. I have now received information from the Provisional Government of Israel that the five men were taken, not from the Power Station itself, but from their private dwelling near by, over which no flag of the United Nations or of any Power was hoisted. It is clear, therefore, that no issue affecting the status of the Truce Commission or of United Nations premises arises at all.

/5. I am

5. I am awaiting the comment of the Provisional Government of Israel on other matters which arose during the 340th meeting, and will communicate with the President of the Security Council at the first opportunity.

(Signed) Aubrey S. Eban  
Representative of the  
Provisional Government of Israel

