
CABLEGRAM DATED 13 AUGUST 1948 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR AND HIS REPLY THERE TO DATED 15 AUGUST 1948
CONCERNING WATER SUPPLY TO JERUSALEM

13 August 1948

I have honour to inform you that Security Council, having taken note at 349th meeting held on 13 August of the Mediator's telegram of 12 August concerning destruction of water-pumping station at Latrun, asked me, as preliminary measure, to request Mediator to make all efforts and steps to ensure water supply to population of Jerusalem.

Yakov Malik
President Security Council

15 August 1948

For President Security Council:

Concerning your message with reference to ensuring water supply to population Jerusalem. As soon as I was informed of the destruction of the pumping station on the morning of 12 August, I instructed my Chief of Staff in Haifa to discuss with Jewish authorities the best method to ensure the flow of water to Jerusalem and to ask what assistance was needed and time element. Hope to receive soon from Haifa concrete proposals and shall not fail to keep Security Council informed.

Also for President Security Council following summary from Rhodes of four preliminary reports transmitted from Haifa on 14 August regarding the destruction of the Latrun pumping station.

First Report: Latrun, 12 August, signed Lt. Col. MacDougal, refers to an incident which took place in the evening of 11 August seven hours before the explosion; Arab Legion truck coming from police post held by Arab Legion was reported by United Nations guard entering pumping station area. Two United Nations observers who arrived ten minutes later found truck backed into entrance to building and two members of Arab Legion and three civilians around the truck. It was admitted they had unloaded a compressor from truck and observers made them unload motor which was on truck and which, from evidence furnished by observers, could hardly have
/been loaded

been loaded on it during ten minutes which preceded observers' arrival. Report further refers to subsequent conversation with Commanding Officer Arab Legion at Latrun, to latter's inquiry at police post and to his statement that it was apparently an attempt at looting.

Second Report: same date-line, same signature, refers to explosion which was heard on 12 August at 5.30 a.m. by a few observers and monks. No special significance was attached to it because of previous instances of explosions. Two observers and one United Nations guard who at 4.20 a.m. proceeded to investigate smoke in vicinity of pumping station found entire area inside in flames. One of the two observers proceeded to headquarters of Arab Legion. He met Lt. Burden of Arab Legion on his way to monastery, who made a complaint about shelling of police post during the night. The observer established that two missiles, apparently mortar shells had fallen on police post. Meanwhile Lt. Col. MacDougal departed for Tel Aviv to advise Lt. Col. Perry that pumping station had been blown up. The second report ends as follows: "No mention of who might have caused said explosion was made at this time".

Third Report: 12 August, signed Lt. Burden, Arab Legion, who reports that he was awakened at police post at about 2.50 a.m. by a series of explosions. Sentry informed him two missiles had struck post causing no casualties.

Fourth Report: Latrun, 12 August, signed by four members of investigation team appointed by Col. MacDougal for pumping station incident. These observers found all three pumps very badly damaged by what appeared to be internal explosion inside each pump. Pieces of pumps strewn throughout building and a few pieces in excess of 350 pounds were about ten feet from nearest pump. Small motor mentioned in the first report by Lt. Col. MacDougal, was still intact at the same place. Observers accompanied by Lt. Burden proceeded to police post to ascertain whether sentries from the police post had seen any activity in the immediate area of the pumping station during the night. "Due to lack of neutral interpreters, it was difficult to derive any pertinent data concerning the incident from legionnaires. There were two shell holes at the police post that were apparently caused by mortar fire and were of recent origin, possibly of morning."

Statement by Lt. Col. MacDougal reads: "No conclusions have been made as to responsible party. It is recommended that the Regional or Central Truce Supervision Board discuss the Latrun incident on 14 August and decide to have the three reports by observers analysed by legal advisor. Specific questions will be put to the Special Investigation Board, which will proceed to Latrun and other places required for further clarification of the case."