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C BLEGAM DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1948 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Following from the United Nations Mediator to the President of the Security Council.

1. In my Progress Report dated 30 July, I informed Security Council of complaints I had received direct from Arab States or through the Secretary General of the Arab League concerning three Arab villages South of Haifa mainly Ein Ghazal, Ijzim and Jaba. I also communicated results of preliminary enquiry on the spot (S/934).
2. Since then a thorough investigation has been conducted by United Nations observers in Palestine. At one time or another five investigating teams were sent into the field. Allegations concerning destruction of villages and massacre or capture of inhabitants were checked.
3. Special investigation team went to Jenin area where refugees from three villages are located. Lists of names were carefully compiled. Result of investigation is that Arab allegations concerning number of killed and captured were enormously exaggerated. More than 4000 villagers were located. The number of those reported killed or missing was below 130.
4. On the other hand, Central Truce Supervision Board is satisfied that following facts are correct: (a) Three villages were attacked by air and land on and after 18 July; (b) With the completion of attack on 25 July inhabitants of three villages were forced to evacuate; (c) After evacuation, two villages Ein Ghazal and Jaba were destroyed by Jewish Army.
5. Such facts took place during second truce. They cannot be excused by the avowed desire to make Hafa Tel Aviv Highway safe because fighting between villagers and Jews had occurred before this truce. At commencement of it, villagers had attempted to negotiate with Jewish Army.
6. In light of findings of Central Truce Supervision Board which I have approved, I informed Mr. Shertok on 9 September that "in my view on the basis of the available evidence the type of action undertaken by your military forces was unjustified in the circumstances especially in view of the offer of the Arab villagers to negotiate and apparent Israeli

failure fully to explore this (word missing) and to exhaust every effort to resolve the difficulty by peaceful means. Moreover, I am strongly of the opinion that the measures taken involving the systematic destruction of two of the villages were excessive and constituted a violation of both the spirit and letter of the terms of the truce."

I have also communicated to Mr. Shertok decisions which are summarized below:

(a) That Arab inhabitants of three villages who were forced to evacuate them subsequent to commencement second truce be allowed return forthwith and reside there in peace;

(b) That provisional government Israel shall do everything possible to rehabilitate Arab inhabitants of three villages restoring at its own expense all houses damaged or destroyed during or after attack, on understanding this ruling shall in no way be considered as precedent by reason of fact that it is based on very special set of circumstances;

(c) That procedure for carrying into effect decisions under (a) and (b) above shall be worked out without delay between my Chief of Staff and authorized representatives of Governments concerned.

(Signed) Bernadotte.