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24 February 1949

CRIGINAL: ENGLISE

ADDENDUM TO CABLEGRAM DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1949 FROM THE ACTING MEDIATOR TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF AN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL

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PLAN OF WITHDRAWAL FROM AL FALUTA

The withdrawal of Egyptian troops with all of their military impedimenta from the Al Faluja area to points beyond the Egypt-Palestine frontier shall be executed in accordance with the following plan:

- 1. The withdrawal operation shall begin on 26 February 1949 at 0500 hours GMT and shall be under United Nations supervision and control throughout:
- 2. In view of the substantial number of troops involved and in the interest of minimizing the possibility of friction and incidents and ensuring effective United Nations expervision during the operation, the execution of the withdrawal shall be completed within a period of five days from the effective date of the plan of withdrawal;
- 3. The road Al Faluja-Îraq-Suweidan-Bureir-Gaza-Rafah shall be used as the route of withdrawal; provided that if this route proves impassable on the date of withdrawal the United Nations Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization shall select an alternative route in consultation with both parties;
- 4. At least forty-eight hours prior to the schequied time of withdrawal the General Officer commanding the Egyptian forces in Palest shall submit to the United Nations Chief of Staff (or his representative for his approval, a detailed plan for the withdrawal of the Egyptian Garrison at Al Faluja, to include the number of troops and amount and type of material to be withdrawn each day, the number and type of vehicles to be used each day in the withdrawal mayement, and the number of trips necessary to complete each days movement;
- 5. The detailed plan referred to in paragraph 4 above shall be based on an order of priority in the withdrawal operation defined by the United Nations Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision which shall provide, inter alia, that following the evacuation of sick and wounded

already accounted for, infantry forces together with their personal arms and possessions, shall be first evacuated, and heavy equipment only in the final stages of the operation. Heavy equipment is to be defined as artillery, armoured cars, tanks and their gun carriers. With a view toward eliminating any possibility of incidents, following the arrival of the infantry contingents at their destination, the evacuation of heavy equipment shall be to a point in Layetian territory to be designated by the United Nations Chief of Staff and there, as Egyptian property, to be placed and kept under custody, guard and seal of the United Nations until such time as the Chief of Staff is satisfied that the armistice has become effective, whereupon this equipment will be hanced over to the appropriate Egyptian authorities;

6. The Israeli authorities and officers in the Al Faluja-Gaza area shall extend their full co-operation to the operation and shall be responsible for ensuring that during the withdrawal movements the route to be followed shall be free of obstructions of all kinds and that during the operation Israeli troops shall be kept away from the roads over which the withdrawal will take place. United Nations Military Observers shall be stationed with both the Egyptian and Israeli forces to ensure that this plan of withdrawal, and such subsequent instructions relating to its execution as may be issued by the United Nations Chief of Staff, are fully complied with by both parties. Such inspections as may be necessary in the conduct of the withdrawal shall be made exclusively by United Nations Military Observers, and their decisions in all such cases shall be accepted as final.

ANNEX TWO

DEMARCATION OF THE WESTERN AND EASTERN FRONTS IN PALESTINE

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On the sole basis of military considerations involving the forces of the two parties to this agreement, as well as third party forces in the area not covered by this agreement, the demarcation of the Western and Eastern fronts in Palestine is to be understood as follows:

- 1. Western front the area south and west of the line delineated in paragraph 2 (a) of the memorandum of 13 November 1948 on the implementation of the resolution of the Security Council of 4 November 1948, from its point of origin on the west to the point at map reference 12581196 thence south along the road to Hatta Alenaluja Rj (?) at map reference 12140823, Beersheba and ending north of Bir Asluj (?) at point 402.
- 2. Eastern front the area east of the line described in paragraph above, and from point 402 down to the southernmost tip of Palestine, by a straight line marking half the distance between the Egypt-Palestine frontier.

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ANNEX THREE ...

DEFINITION OF DEFENSIVE FORCES

- I. Land Forces.. (1) shall not exceed:
 - (A) 3 infantry battalions, each battalion to consist of not more than 800 officers and men and composed of not more than (1) 4 rifle companies with ordinary infantry small arms equipment (rifles, light machine guns, heavy machine guns, light mortars, etc.) anti-tank rifles or plats
 - (2) one support company with not more than 6 MG3, 6 mortars not heavier than 3 pounders, 4 anti-tank guns not heavier than 6 pounders.
 - (3) 1 HQ company.
 - (B) one battery of 8 field gums not heavier than 25 pounders.
 - (C) one battery of 8 A/A guns not heavier than 40 mm.
 - (2) The following are excluded from the term defensive forces:
 - (A) ermour, such as tanks; armoured cars, brencarriers, half trucks, load carriers or any other AFCS.
 - (B) all support arms and units other than those specified in paragraph 1 (A), 1 (B), 1 (C) above.
 - (3) service units will be in accordance with a plan to be prepared and approved by the mixed armistice commission.
- II. Air Forces in the areas where defensive forces only will be allowed, the following stipulations regarding air forces will be observed:
 - (1) ro military airfields, airstrips, landing grounds or installations shall be maintained.
 - (2) no military aircraft shall take off or land except in an emergency.
- III. Sea Forces no naval base shall be established in areas where defensive forces only will be allowed, nor shall any warship or military vessel enter the territorial waters adjacent thereto.
- IV. In the areas in which defensive forces only are to be maintained the necessary reduction of forces shall be completed within four weeks from the date on which this agreement is signed.

UNDERSTANDINGS

Rhodes, 24 February 1949

To: Dr. Walter Eytan, Head of the Israeli Delegation at Rhodes From: Ralph J. Burche, Acting Mediator

In connection with the Egyptian-Israeli general armistice agreement your confirmation is desired of the understanding that no Israeli forces shall be in the village of Bir Asluj.

Rhodes, 24 February 1949

To: Dr. Relph J. Bunche, Acting Mediator on Palestine

From: Walter Eytan, Head of the Israeli Delegation

In connection with the Egyptian-Israeli general armistice agreement, I confirm the understanding that no Israeli forces shall be in the village of Bir Asluj.

Rhodes, 24 February 1949

To: Dr. Walter Eytan, Head of the Israeli Delegation at Rhodes From: Ralph J. Bunche, Acting Mediator

In connection with the Egyptian-Israeli general armistice agreement, your confirmation is desired of the understanding that in the course of the evacuation of the Egyptian force at Al Faluja, provided for in article 3 of the agreement, such of the civilian population at Al Faluja and Iraq Al Manshiya as may wish to do so may also be evacuated along with the Egyptian force. Those of the civilian population who may wish to remain in Al Faluja and Iraq Al Manshiya are to be permitted to do so. Those of the civilian population who may wish to do so may proceed to the Hebron area under United Nations escort and supervision. All of these civilians shall be fully secure in their persons, abodes, property and personal effects.

Rhodes, 24 February 1949

To: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Acting Mediator on Palestine From: Walter Eytan, Head of the Israeli Delegation

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In connection with the Egyptian-Israeli general armistice agreement, I confirm the understanding that, in the course of the evacuation of the Egyptian force at Al Faluja, provided for in Article 3 of the agreement, such of the civilian population at Al Faluja and Iraq Al Manshiya as may wish to do so may also be evacuated along with the Egyptian force. Those of the civilian population who may wish to remain in Al Faluja and Iraq Al Manshiya are to be permitted to do so. Those of the civilian population who may wish to do so may proceed to the Hebron area under United Nations escort and supervision. All of these civilians shall be fully secure in their persons, abodes, property and personal effects.

The Government of Israel reserves the right to treat as prisoners of war any persons electing to remain in the Al Faluja and Iraq Al Manshiya area: who may be identified as having taken part in the fighting in Palestine.

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Rhodes, 24 February 1949

To: Dr. Walter Eytan, Head of the Israeli delegation at Rhodes From: Ralph J. Bunche, Acting Mediator

In connection with the Egyptian-Israeli general armistice agreement your confirmation is desired of the understanding that any time following the signing of this agreement of the Egyptian forces now in the Bethlehem Hebron area together with all of their arms, equipment, personal possession and vehicles, may be withdrawn across the Egyptian frontier exclusively under United Nations supervision and escort, and by a direct route to be determined by the United Nations Chief of Staff of the Truce supervision in consultation with the appropriate Israeli authorities.

Rhodes, 24 February 1949

To: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Acting Mediator on Palestine From: Walter Eytan, Head of the Israeli delegation

appropriate Israeli authorities.

In connection with the Egyptian-Israeli general armistice agreement I confirm the understanding that at any time following the signing of this agreement, the Egyptian forces new in the Bethlehem Hebron area, together with all of their arms, equipment, personal possessions and vehicles may be withdrawn across the Egyptian frontier exclusively under United Nations supervision and escort, and by a direct route to be determined by the United Nations Chief of Staff of the Truce supervision in consultation with

Rhodes, 24 February 1949

To: Colonel Seif El Dine, Head of the Egyptian delegation at Rhodes From: Ralph J. Bunche, Acting Mediator

In connection with the Egyptian-Israeli general armistice agreement your confirmation is desired of the understanding that any military camps or corporate localities now astride the Hatta Al Faluja Beersheba road or which are located not more than 200 meters west of this road shall be considered as falling within the area of the eastern front as defined in Annex two of the agreement.

Rhodes, 24 February 1949

To: Dr. Ralph Bunche, Acting Mediator on Palestine From: Colonel Seif El Dine

In reply to your note dated February 19th, 1949, I beg to inform you that the Egyptian delegation agrees to consider any military camps or corporate localities now astride the Hatta Al Faluja Beersheba road, which are located at not more than 200 meters west of this road as falling within the area of the eastern front as defined in Annex two of the Armistice agreement signed today.

Ralph Bunche, Acting Mediator