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LETTER DATED 12 MARCH 1951 FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE TRUCE
SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
TRANSMITTING A REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE
HASHEMITE JORDAN KINGDOM-ISRAEL MIXED
ARMISTICE COMMISSION

Sir,

I have the honour to communicate to you for transmission to the President of the Security Council the attached report on decisions taken by the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission during the period 17 November 1950 to 17 February 1951.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

W. E. Riley,
Major General, USMC,
Chief of Staff

/MIXED ARMISTICE
S/2048

MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSIONS DECISIONS

1. I have the honour, in pursuance of the Security Council resolution of 17 November 1950 (document S/1907), to submit the following report on decisions taken by the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission.
2. This report which is in two parts deals with decisions taken by the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission concerning border incidents in connexion with:
 - (a) a dispute over a stretch of the Beersheba-Elath road in the Wadi Araba, and
 - (b) a series of border incidents which flared up during the period 15 December 1950 to 15 February 1951.
3. In view of the number of meetings of the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission which were required to solve the Wadi Araba dispute, it is dealt with separately as part I of this report.

I. Wadi Araba Border Incident

1. On 22 November 1950, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation complained to the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission that during 1950, a diversion of the Beersheba-Elath road had been constructed by Israel in the Wadi Araba on Hashemite Jordan Kingdom territory. The complaint alleged that the diversion had been built two to six hundred metres east of the old road with more than four and one half kilometres on Hashemite Jordan Kingdom territory. On the same day the complaint was communicated to the Israel delegation which asked for time to study it.
2. On 30 November 1950, the Israel delegation requested an emergency meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission, alleging that armoured cars of the Arab Legion had, on 29 November 1950, blocked the Beersheba-Elath road at Kilometre 78. The Israel delegation pointed out that although the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom had submitted a complaint to the Mixed Armistice Commission alleging that the Beersheba-Elath road crossed its territory at this point, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom had, without awaiting a decision of the Mixed Armistice Commission, taken unilateral action designed to prejudice the final decision. The Israel delegation further asked that appropriate steps be taken by the Chairman to restore the status quo pending a decision of the Mixed Armistice Commission. The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation refused to take part in the emergency meeting, rejecting
/any complaint

any complaint on an action taken by the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom Government in its own territory.

3. Also on 30 November 1950, the Israel delegation informed the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission verbally that if the Arab Legion did not withdraw from Kilometre 78 on the Beersheba-Elath road by 1 December 1950, Israel would force a passage of the road. However, no such action was taken on 1 December 1950.
4. On 1 December 1950, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation requested that no action be taken on its complaint of 22 November 1950, on the subject of the Beersheba-Elath road in the Wadi Araba.
5. On 1 December 1950, the United Nations acting Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization ordered a United Nations observer to proceed to Kilometre 78 and to report on any military activity in the disputed area which might lead to a breach of the peace. This observer was prevented from proceeding south from Beersheba for four hours by Israel authorities in the area on the ground that the road was not safe for vehicles which were not escorted by armed forces. Eventually an Israeli liaison officer accompanied the observer southwards. He reported the presence of Israel armoured cars and infantry in the area and Arab Legion armoured cars patrolling east of Kilometre 78. In the observer's view, these units were not engaged in any activity which might indicate they were preparing for action.
6. On 2 December 1950, the Israel delegation handed to the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission a copy of the following letter which had been delivered by the officer commanding the Israel column escorting a convoy to Elath, to the officer commanding the Arab Legion forces in the vicinity of Kilometre 78 on the road to Elath:

"This is to notify you that my column will open the road to Elath at exactly 1800 hours, i.e. thirty minutes from now. My force, including artillery, mortars, armour and infantry, will not open fire unless they are first fired upon. It should, therefore, be quite clear to you that if you open fire, the responsibility for all consequences will rest squarely upon your shoulders, I am instructed to bring to your notice that your Government's complaint with regard to the stretch of our road to Elath, which you have blocked, is now before the Mixed Armistice Commission. My Government will always abide by the decision of the Mixed Armistice Commission."

7. On 3 December 1950, the Israel delegation complained to the Mixed Armistice Commission that Arab Legion forces had that day fired on Israel traffic in the vicinity of Kilometre 78 on the Beersheba-Elath road. The complaint stated that "this action followed the withdrawal of the Jordan complaint alleging that the

/stretch of

stretch of road was not situated in Israel territory, thus indicating that this complaint was without foundation." The complaint also pointed out that "this flagrant breach of the Armistice took place less than twenty-four hours after a warning (a copy of which was transmitted on the night of 2 December to the United Nations) had been handed to the local Arab Legion commander stating that the Israel convoy to Elath would proceed peacefully if unmolested, and reiterating that the Israel Government would be bound, as always, by any decision that the Mixed Armistice Commission might eventually take on the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom claims (now withdrawn)".

8. On 3 December 1950, in reply to a request from the United Nations acting Chief of Staff, Truce Supervision Organization, to the Chief of Staff, Israel Defence Forces, that a cease-fire and a withdrawal of Israel armed forces west of the old road be ordered, the following message was received:

- "a. Fighting was started by the Arab Legion, when it opened fire on our forces.
- "b. If the Arab Legion does not fire on our troops or traffic, our troops will not fire either.
- "c. Our convoys will continue to go to Elath by the new road until the Mixed Armistice Commission, on the basis of the report of an enquiry commission sent out by it, will decide otherwise.
- "d. Since we have been notified that the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom has withdrawn its complaint, claiming that the new road runs through its territory, there is no basis for the sending out of an enquiry commission to determine in whose territory the road lies. On the other hand, the Mixed Armistice Commission has on its agenda two complaints concerning violations of the Armistice Agreement by the Arab Legion:
 - i. Blocking of the road to Elath by the Arab Legion without awaiting discussion of the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaint to the Mixed Armistice Commission, which complaint they have meanwhile withdrawn.
 - ii. Opening of fire on our traffic this morning.
- "e. It is therefore our opinion that the following action should be taken:
 - i. The Arab Legion should be instructed by you to cease firing immediately.
 - ii. The Mixed Armistice Commission should be convened immediately by you to discuss our complaints against the Arab Legion.
- "f. If after this, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom Government wishes to press its complaint that the road passes through its territory, the Mixed Armistice Commission may discuss that complaint and may decide on the despatch of a joint enquiry committee, the findings of which will be accepted by the Israel Government, as already stated. In the meantime, of course, our convoys will continue to proceed to Elath as before,

/unless the

unless the Arab Legion continues firing and is not instructed by you to stop firing. Then, both you and the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom Government will destroy the machinery of the Mixed Armistice Commission, contrary to the decision of the Security Council, and thereby endanger the peace."

9. Later on 3 December 1950, the acting Chief of Staff requested, through both delegations, that orders be issued by the Chiefs of Staff of Israel and the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom to effect the following:

- (a) Complete cease-fire at 1700 hours, local time (1500 hours Greenwich mean-time), by all forces.
- (b) Withdrawal of the Israel forces as far west as the old road leading from Beersheba to Elath in the Wadi Araba area.
- (c) Withdrawal of all Hashemite Jordan Kingdom forces to the east of grid line 167 in the Wadi Araba area.
- (d) The withdrawal movements will start at 1700 hours, local time.

It was further requested that an emergency meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission be held on 4 December to discuss the incidents in the Wadi Araba area.

10. At the emergency meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission on 4 December 1950, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation stated that the Arab Legion had withdrawn to the positions suggested by the acting Chief of Staff on 3 December 1950. The Israel delegation stated that Israel had not in the past maintained posts in the vicinity of the disputed area and did not intend to maintain troops there in the future. It reiterated Israel's intention to abide by a Mixed Armistice Commission decision with regard to the disputed stretch of road, after sending out a mixed enquiry commission. However, until a decision was reached that the diversion of the road was within Hashemite Jordan Kingdom territory, Israel would continue to use the road. The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation stressed that being a sovereign State, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom was free to take any action it deemed necessary within its own territory. Moreover, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation contended that the road should not be used until the Mixed Armistice Commission had reached a decision on the location of the road. The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation argued that the location of the diversion could only be settled by a joint survey team and suggested that this survey be conducted as soon as practicable. The Israel delegation, however, would not agree to participate in such a project until the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom's "unilateral action" in closing the road was condemned by the Mixed Armistice Commission as a breach of the General Armistice Agreement. In view of the irreconcilable positions taken by both Parties, the meeting was adjourned.

/11. On 5

11. On 5 December, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation complained that Israel military patrols in jeeps had trespassed into Hashemite Jordan Kingdom territory at kilometre 78 in the Wadi Araba. The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation stated that this alleged Israel action was a contravention of article II, paragraph 2 of the General Armistice Agreement, "especially at a moment when United Nations authorities are dealing with the case, and at a time when the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom in compliance with the suggestion of the acting Chief of Staff ceased fire and withdrew to the points indicated by him." The complaint went on to say that not only had Israel armed forces failed to withdraw to the points indicated by the acting Chief of Staff, but had also advanced further inside Hashemite Jordan Kingdom territory. The complaint concluded that this latest Israel violation of the General Armistice Agreement might very well breach the peace and lead to serious consequences. An emergency meeting was requested to discuss this complaint.

12. On 6 December 1950, the Mixed Armistice Commission met in emergency session under the chairmanship of the United Nations Chief of Staff, General Riley, who stressed that one of the greatest needs at the present time was the willingness of both Parties to utilize the machinery of the Mixed Armistice Commission in solving the problems that arose. He added that direct contact between the two Parties was available only through the Mixed Armistice Commission; there were no other agencies at this time through which order could be maintained. He drew attention to the fact that on 1 December 1950, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation had asked the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission to suspend action on its earlier complaint regarding the Beersheba-Elath road in the Wadi Araba, inasmuch as it had, on 29 November, taken unilateral action and established a road-block on the disputed stretch of road. The Chief of Staff pointed out that in asking for the suspension of action, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom had assumed prerogatives which rightly belonged to the Mixed Armistice Commission once a complaint was submitted. Further, he did not think that any State had the right to take action, on its own, in a matter which could be discussed in the Mixed Armistice Commission. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chief of Staff informed both delegations that he would like a statement coming from the Governments that they would abide by the Armistice Agreement. He suggested the immediate sending of a survey team to the disputed area.

13. On 8 December, the United Nations Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision
/Organization

Organization called an emergency meeting of the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission, with a view to settling the question at issue and to consider the Israel request for an emergency meeting on their complaint of 7 December. This complaint alleged that an attack by Hashemite Jordan Kingdom armed forces had been made on an Israel army jeep the previous day at Kilometre 62 of the Beersheba-Elath road. An Israel officer was killed in this attack. The Israel delegation requested the Chairman (the Chief of Staff) to put the following motion to a vote:

"The placing of road-blocks and the erection of notices threatening the opening of fire on vehicles attempting to use the stretch of road between Kilometres 76 and 78 of the road to Elath, which has been used by Israel traffic for some months, on 29 November 1950, by the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom, was a unilateral action, contrary to the terms of the Security Council resolution of 17 November 1950, and to the terms of article III, paragraph 3, of the General Armistice Agreement and a violation thereof."

The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation withdrew during the voting and returned after the votes had been recorded. The Israel delegation and the Chairman voted in favour of the motion. The United Nations Chief of Staff then made the following statement:

"There is no complaint before the Mixed Armistice Commission on the unilateral action also taken by Israel following the placing of road-blocks by the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom on the Beersheba-Elath road. It is my firm belief that any such action taken by either Party is contrary to the General Armistice Agreement and the Security Council resolution of 17 November 1950. I request both Parties to reiterate their adherence to the General Armistice Agreement, and their intention to uphold the authority of the Mixed Armistice Commission in the fields in which it has competence. I do not believe that States which have signed the General Armistice Agreement should take arbitrary action on matters which they had agreed previously were within the province of the Mixed Armistice Commission. Israel has complained that the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom armed forces opened fire on 3 December 1950 on Israel armed forces in the area of Kilometre 78. In view of the difficulties involved in ascertaining which forces opened fire first, the Chairman warns both Parties against the use of force."

At the suggestion of the Chairman (the Chief of Staff), the Mixed Armistice Commission decided to send a mixed survey team, consisting of representatives of the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom, Israel and the United Nations, to the Wadi Araba to ascertain whether the stretch of new road near Kilometre 78 was in Hashemite Jordan Kingdom or Israel territory. The Chairman further suggested that the Israel delegation request its Government to cease using the diversion road until the survey team had completed its work.

14. On 14 and 15 December 1950, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission met to consider a number of questions which had arisen in connexion with the problem of determining whether the disputed stretch of the Beersheba-Elath road lay in Hashemite Jordan Kingdom or in Israel territory. The following resolution was adopted with the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation and the Chairman in favour, and the Israel delegation against. The resolution read:

- "a. The Mixed Armistice Commission decides that the interpretation to be given to the 1/250,000 map signed at Rhodes, is that the demarcation line in the disputed area follows the international boundary between Palestine and Jordan as defined by Order in Council of the Palestine Government in 1922.
- "b. The best way to ascertain the whereabouts of the old international boundary between Transjordan and Palestine is to survey on the ground to find the line connecting the lowest points in the Wadi Araba, in accordance with what was meant by the Order in Council of 1922.
- "c. To do this, the Mixed Armistice Commission also decides that it is best to use the largest scale official map available, which is the 1/100,000 scale map for the area. The Mixed Armistice Commission further decides that this 1/100,000 scale map should be used by the survey team in ascertaining on the ground the exact boundary and the exact position of the stretch of road under dispute.

Upon the passage of this resolution, the Israel delegation made the following statement:

"We cannot but express our deep regret at the decision which the Mixed Armistice Commission has taken; the Mixed Armistice Commission, we submit, has taken an illegal decision. It has gone outside its scope and outside its authority in assuming that the Armistice lines are not as signed on the Armistice maps, but that they were actually meant to run somewhere else, and therefore should be considered as running where they should have run, rather than where they actually do run. The Mixed Armistice Commission has changed the Armistice Agreement without the consent of the signatories to the Armistice Agreement, and in the face of the opposition of one of them. There is no doubt in our minds, therefore, that legally this decision is invalid."

It was decided that the mixed survey team would proceed to the disputed area.

15. On 25 January 1951, the Mixed Armistice Commission met for further consideration of the questions which had arisen in connection with the problems faced by the mixed survey team in carrying out fully the terms of the resolution adopted at the meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission on 15 December 1950. The regular Chairman presided. The United Nations Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization who was also present, made the following statement:

/"At no time

"At no time can the Mixed Armistice Commission involve itself in the location or correction of the international boundary, for the simple reason it would be an amendment to the Armistice Agreement which must, of necessity, be agreed to by both Parties. The Mixed Armistice Commission was in error when it decided, in paragraph 3 of its resolution of 15 December 1950, to use the 1/100,000 scale map as the basis on which an international boundary is to be located. This is outside the terms of the Armistice Agreement. The map and an aerial photograph can be used, but when the computations are completed, the Mixed Armistice Commission must limit itself to the 1/250,000 map, which is the only official map for the area in question, until such time as the Parties themselves agree to use a larger scale map."

The Chief of Staff requested the delegations to submit to their Governments the following proposal for their approval:

"Based on the findings of the joint survey team sent to the area between Kilometre 75 and Kilometre 78 on the Beersheba-Elath road in the Wadi Araba to determine whether a disputed stretch of the road was in Hashemite Jordan Kingdom territory,

- a. The Mixed Armistice Commission decides that a stretch of the road between MR. and MR. is in Jordan territory, and
- b. The Mixed Armistice Commission decides to send a joint survey team to continue the demarcation on the ground of the remainder of the line in the disputed area."

The Chief of Staff suggested that the following co-ordinates on the 1/250,000 map be used in connexion with his proposed solution:

165.292 - 954.700

165.562 - 953.250

16. On 6 February 1951, at the meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission, both delegations stated the views of their Governments with respect to the solution of the Wadi Araba dispute proposed by the United Nations Chief of Staff. The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation proposed the following resolution:

"The Mixed Armistice Commission decides that the stretch of the Beersheba-Elath road in the Wadi Araba between MR. 164.351 - 957,211 and MR. 165.456 - 952.800 (4.7 kilometres in length with a penetration of 500 metres) is in Jordan territory, and therefore Israel traffic should cease using it as from 1000 hours on Friday, 9 February 1951."

The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation added that if the Mixed Armistice Commission did not adopt this resolution, it would advise its Government to refer the whole matter to the Security Council. The Israel delegation proposed the following resolution, adding that it was basically the same as the solution proposed by the Chief of Staff:

/"a. Because

- "a. Because of the fact that the border between Israel and Transjordan is undemarcated in the area under dispute, and the smallness of the scale of the official 1/250,000 map is such as to make any positive conclusion difficult, if not impossible, both Parties agree that until a final settlement of the border between them in this area, the stretch of the disputed road between MR. 165.292 - 954.700 and MR. 165.562 - 953.250 will be considered to lie in Hashemite Jordan Kingdom territory, the rest of it lying in Israel territory.
- "b. The Chairman suggests that the two Parties carry out a joint survey to demarcate on the ground the exact boundary line between the Gulf of Akaba and the Dead Sea."

The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation rejected the Israel proposal, whereupon the Chairman read the following proposals from the Chief of Staff addressed to the Chairman:

"The inability of both delegations to the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission to find a mutually acceptable solution to the Wadi Araba dispute, and the fact that both Parties have been unable to accept the draft of the Chief of Staff presented at the Mixed Armistice Commission meeting of 25 January 1951, concerning this dispute, leaves only one alternative for the satisfactory settlement of this problem. I therefore suggest that both delegates adopt the following measures:

- "a. Decide to rescind the resolution adopted at the Mixed Armistice Commission meeting of 15 December 1950, which involved the Mixed Armistice Commission in a decision requiring the determination on the ground of the exact location of the international boundary between Palestine and Transjordan as defined by the Order in Council of the Palestine Government in 1922.
- "b. Decide to dispatch a mixed survey team immediately to the area under dispute. This team will determine the demarcation line on the ground, with the understanding that the demarcation line follows the line of crosses which represents on the map the general location of the old undemarcated boundary between Transjordan and Palestine.
- "c. Based on the findings of the mixed survey team, both Parties decide to acknowledge that portion of the road situated east of the demarcation line as being in Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-controlled territory, and that portion of the road situated to the west of the demarcation line as being in Israel-controlled territory.
- "d. Unless the Parties mutually decide to conduct the survey with a map other than the official map of a scale of 1/250,000, this official map will be used by the survey team to locate the demarcation line on the ground."

The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation also rejected this proposal, but the Israel delegation was prepared to accept it. Before adjourning the meeting, the Chairman made the following statement:

/"I wish to

"I wish to call the attention of both delegations to the resolution of the Security Council of 17 November 1950, which reminded Israel and the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom that the Armistice Agreement to which they are Parties contemplates 'the return of permanent peace in Palestine', and therefore urges them to take all such steps as will lead to the settlement of the issues between them.

"I further wish to remind both Parties of the solemn obligation which they undertook in signing the Armistice Agreement which both Parties accepted as an indispensable step toward the restoration of peace in Palestine. Therefore neither Party can take unilateral action, as contemplated by the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation."

At this point of the proceedings, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation denied that its Government intended taking unilateral action. It was not clear to the Chairman whether the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation's statements, regarding reference of the dispute to the Security Council and its insistence on a decision on the Wadi Araba dispute before any other major matters were taken up by the Mixed Armistice Commission, meant that the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation would not attend future meetings of the Mixed Armistice Commission. In reply to a question put by the Chairman, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation clarified its stand by stating that it would attend future meetings of the Mixed Armistice Commission. Thereupon the Chairman announced that he would delete the last sentence of his statement.

17. On 14 February 1951, the Mixed Armistice Commission adopted unanimously the following resolution:

"Taking into consideration the difficulties involved at the present time in determining on the ground the exact location of the international boundary between Palestine and Transjordan, as defined by the Order in Council of the Palestine Government in 1922, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission decides that, in accordance with the official Armistice map:

- "a. The stretch of the road in the Wadi Araba between MR. 165.292 - 954.700 and MR. 165.562 - 953.250 is to be considered as being in Jordan-controlled territory.
- "b. The remainder of the road, between Kilometre 74 and Kilometre 78, is to be considered as being in Israel-controlled territory. It being recognized that these two decisions shall not in any way prejudice the rights, claims and positions of either Party in an ultimate peace settlement between them.
- "c. Israel traffic shall cease to use that portion of the Wadi Araba road declared to be in Jordan-controlled territory from 1200 hours on 25 February, 1951."

18. On 25 February 1951, Israel traffic ceased to use that part of the road declared to be in Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-controlled territory.

II. Border Incidents during the Period 15 December 1950 -
15 February 1951

1. A series of incidents along the demarcation lines between the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom and Israel during the period 15 December 1950 and 15 February 1951, led to sixteen requests for emergency meetings of the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission.

2. These sixteen requests were as follows:

- (a) 16 December 1950, Israel complaint: Israel civilian killed inside Israel territory by rifle fire from walls of Old City of Jerusalem.
- (b) 25 January 1951, Israel complaint: Israel civilian killed near Beit Ikse Village in the Jerusalem area.
- (c) 25 January 1951, Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaint: Israel armed forces opened fire on Arab civilians in Beit Ikse in the Jerusalem area.
- (d) 26 January 1951, Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaint: Israel armed forces attacked Beit Surik Village in the Jerusalem area.
- (e) 26 January 1951, Israel complaint: Hashemite Jordan Kingdom armed forces opened fire on Israel civilians near Beit Tulma in the Latrun area.
- (f) 31 January 1951, Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaint: Israel armed forces attacked the border village of Yalu in the Latrun area.
- (g) 5 February 1951, Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaint: Israel armed forces blew up fourteen telegraph poles in the Tulkarm area.
- (h) 5 February 1951, Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaint: Israel armed forces killed two civilians in Saffa in the Latrun area.
- (i) 5 February 1951, Israel complaint: Israel civilian wounded by Arabs in Deir Abu Tor in the Jerusalem area.
- (j) 6 February 1951, Israel complaint: Israel civilian murdered and his wife raped by Arabs in Katamon in the Jerusalem area.
- (k) 7 February 1951, Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaint: Two houses in the village of Sharafat in the Jerusalem area blown up by Israel armed forces; ten Arabs killed and eight wounded.
- (l) 7 February 1951, Israel complaint: Israel civilians shot by Arab Legionnaire in the Jerusalem area.
- (m) 9 February 1951, Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaint: Village of Falama in the Tulkarm area attacked by an Israel force; one man and two children killed.

- (n) 12 February 1951, Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaint: Israel armed forces attacked the village of Deir Ballut in the Tulkarm area.
- (o) 13 February 1951, Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaint: Israel armed forces attacked the village of Imwas in the Latrun area.
- (p) 13 February 1951, Israel complaint: An Arab armed force opened fire on the Talpiot refugee camp in the Jerusalem area.

3. An emergency meeting of the Commission on 12 February 1951 was called to deal with these complaints alleging border incidents and ended in a deadlock with the delegations disagreeing as to the order in which the complaints were to be considered. The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom delegation insisted that priority should be given to its complaint of 7 February 1951, in which it alleged that an Israel armed band had blown up two houses in the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom village of Sharafat in the Jerusalem area, killing ten Arabs and wounding eight. The Israel delegation, however, took the view that the complaints, regarding which emergency meetings had been requested, should be dealt with in chronological order.

4. On 14 February 1951, following several informal discussions, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission adopted the following decision unanimously:

- "a. The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission condemns the wanton killing and murder that have taken place in the past few weeks in the border areas, and deplores the incidents which have recently taken a turn for worse.
- "b. The Mixed Armistice Commission draws attention to the imperative need of preventing a recurrence of such acts which have led to complaints referring to the killing of innocent people, the blowing up of homes, murder and rape.
- "c. In view of the fact that high-ranking officers, representing the Governments of the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom and Israel, will meet shortly to discuss steps to be taken to prevent in future all such incidents, the Mixed Armistice Commission decides that the above-mentioned complaints be considered as having been acted upon."

5. As a result of the above decision, the delegations, on 15 and 16 February 1951, met and decided to strike off from the Mixed Armistice Commission's agenda 100 additional complaints which had been on the agenda for some time (fifty-two from Hashemite Jordan Kingdom and forty-eight from Israel). Seventy-seven complaints still remain on the agenda of the Mixed Armistice Commission. These

involve ten alleged expulsions of Arabs from Israel territory, four alleged occupations of houses in no-man's-land (three Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaints and one Israel complaint), and forty-three complaints alleging theft and marauding (thirteen Hashemite Jordan Kingdom complaints and thirty Israel complaints). The forty-three items referring to theft and marauding will be considered for possible cancellation at a later sub-committee meeting. In addition, there are twenty complaints alleging shootings and armed raids which both delegations have decided to retain on the agenda. The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom and Israel delegations to the Mixed Armistice Commission have agreed that:

- "a. The striking out of these complaints from the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission's agenda in no way implies that the respective Parties should not carry out any investigations they consider desirable, passing the results of such investigations to the other Party, if they wish, for the latter to take any action it thinks fit.
- "b. Both Parties reserve their rights on all questions of compensation, as this matter is outside the scope of the Mixed Armistice Commission.
- "c. The Mixed Armistice Commission requests both Governments to issue strict orders forbidding the violation by one Party of the air space of the other."

6. On 14 February 1951, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission also made the following unanimous decision on the question of the powers of the Chairman:

- "a. The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission decides that the Chairman of the Commission shall, as from 15 February 1951, have the sole right to decide whether a future complaint lodged by either Party calls for an emergency meeting or not.
- "b. In case a complaint is adjudged by the Chairman as not being of an emergency nature, it will take its normal place on the agenda of the Mixed Armistice Commission.
- "c. If the Chairman accepts a complaint as necessitating an emergency meeting he will call a meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission within twenty-four hours of the submission of an official complaint to him attendance at which will be compulsory.
- "d. In case more than one emergency complaint is accepted by the Chairman at the same time, he will have the right to decide which of the complaints is to be discussed first, provided all such complaints are discussed within twenty-four hours of their receipt."

7. On 15 February 1951, the deputy Chiefs of Staff of the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom and Israel met in Jerusalem and explored the possibilities of establishing

effective communications between local commanders of both parties in the border areas to ensure the prompt interchange of information concerning marauders. They pledged mutual co-operation in the apprehension of such marauders.

8. As a result of this meeting, local commanders of the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom and Israel attended a Mixed Armistice Commission meeting on 27 February, at which it was decided to establish communications by telephone, by 5 March 1951 between local commanders at Jenin and Afula, Tulkarm, Latrun, Beit Jibrin, and Dhahariya-Beersheba. It was further decided that local commanders would meet on the armistice lines to settle minor incidents summarily; liaison officers on both sides would inform each other immediately on any incidents that occur; all animals from one side which had strayed or been taken to the other side would be returned immediately; animals may not be confiscated to satisfy previous claims that have not been settled.

9. The Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission tentatively planned for senior officers of both Parties to meet again in April to review the arrangements made for keeping the peace in the border areas and to make new plans wherever it is found necessary.

W. E. Riley,
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps,
United Nations Chief of Staff of the
Truce Supervision Organization.

Jerusalem, 12 March 1951.
