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CABLEGRAM DATED 19 JUNE 1953 FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit for the information of the Security Council the text of a letter dated 16 June 1953 addressed to me by the Acting Director General of the Israel Foreign Ministry. The letter has been released by the Foreign Ministry and appears in the press of 19 June. The text of the letter follows:

"I refer to the report of 14th May 1953, submitted by you to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, setting out the results of the inspection of the Mount Scopus demilitarized area on 28-30 April 1953.

"2. In paragraph three of the report you state that under the terms of the agreement entered into on 7th July 1948, the Mount Scopus area was divided into three sections, the Arab village of Issawiya being one of them. According to the agreement itself, the demilitarized area included 'the areas designated as Hadassah Hospital, Hebrew University, Augusta Victoria and the Arab village of Issawiya', of these, all except Augusta Victoria were at the time of the agreement under Israel control, and therefore Issawiya village formed part of what you term the 'Jewish Section'. This is borne out by the correspondence between Israel and United Nations Representatives, and has not been brought into question till now.

"3. The village was empty at the time the agreement was signed. The Israel authorities subsequently agreed to no more than one hundred and fifty inhabitants. There was no question at the time of the word 'inhabitants' being given the entirely different meaning of 'families', or of one hundred and fifty being construed as a thousand. This view is corroborated by the instructions of Commandant Trieste, dated 14th October 1948, in which it is stated that 'one hundred and fifty Arab civilians unarmed are allowed to stay in the Issawiya village'. There is no evidence to support any meaning other than the ordinary

one. The presence of more than one hundred and fifty inhabitants in Issawiya village undoubtedly constitutes a longstanding violation of the agreement.

"4. It is a remarkable fact that a hospital should have been set up and operated by United Nations agencies in the Augusta Victoria building, in open disregard of the terms of the 7th July 1948 agreement, while nothing has been done to secure the reopening of the Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus, which is specifically called for by Article Eight of the General Armistice Agreement. Until that Article is carried out, all the cultural and humanitarian institutions on Mount Scopus are allowed to function normally, and free access thereto is assured, the Israel Government cannot acquiesce in the violation of the Mount Scopus agreement with regard to the Augusta Victoria.

"I am, therefore, instructed to request that the necessary measures be taken to restore the lawful situation in the Mount Scopus area in conformity with the 7th July 1948 agreement.

"Would you kindly convey to the Secretary-General the above observations on your report. Yours sincerely, M.S. Comay, Acting Director General".

W.E. Riley
Lieut. General, USMC Ret.
Chief of Staff

