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CABLEGRAM DATED 10 MAY 1948 FROM THE SECURITY COUNCIL TRUCE COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

This afternoon the High Commissioner called the Security Council Truce Commission for Palestine. He told them that the Jewish Agency had not answered his invitation to come this morning to take cognizance of the conditions of truce established in agreement with Assem Pasha. Sir Allan Cunningham then asked the Commission if it considered that the fact of entrusting the fate of Jerusalem to the International Committee of the Red Cross constituted an obstacle to its own mission. The Commission President supported by his colleagues answered that the proposal of M. de Reymier which had already been studied seemed to be too vague to present chances of success and that it seemed furthermore doubtful to him that it would be adhered to by the Jews. The Commission then added, to answer the precise question of the High Commissioner, that the putting into effect of this project did not seem to constitute a hindrance to its mission. The French delegate then pointed out that as the proposal of the Red Cross appeared to have little chance of success, considered that one was assuming grave responsibility in spending so much time over it when this time should be used to try and bring Jews and Arabs to negotiate.

He pointed out that if the High Commissioner could bring the Arabs to negotiate with the Commission, it would seem to him very possible to reach some agreement. The latter at the same time would try to convince the Jews. He underlined that it seemed indeed very likely that the Jews would be more ready to negotiate with the Commission than with the Mandatory Government and the Commission had a greater possibility, as organ of the United Nations to exercise pressure on the Jews. Eventually Nouville pointed out that if the Red Cross proposal were adopted and if it did not prove efficient in a

/few days

few days time, as he thought would be the case, the English would not be there any longer, the fighting would again start, and it would be indeed difficult for the Commission to take up its mission. The delegate from France strongly emphasized the importance of the loss of time six days before the mandate would end. The High Commissioner answered that he would, until the fifteenth May, have authority and the power to take the decision that would seem best to him.

At the request of the United States delegate he added the plan was only in draft form at this point and it still needed the "final touch" and agreed to by the Jews. In reference to the Arabs, Sir Allan thought he could rely on their agreement. The Commission added that, in accordance with comments that have been made by a representative of the Jewish Agency, the latter had sent two representatives to the High Commissioner but that Sir Allan did not want to see them because they were not members of the Zionist Executive. Those members were all in Tel-Aviv at the time.

Security Council Truce Commission for Palestine
