

CABLEGRAM DATED 17 JANUARY 1949 FROM THE ACTING MEDIATOR
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING A COMMUNICATION
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING
THE PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION

To the President of the Security Council:

I have the honour to call to the attention of the Security Council that the Conciliation Commission established by the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its 186th plenary meeting on 11 December 1948 has today at Geneva convened in its first meeting. In this regard the attention of the Security Council is directed to paragraph 2 (a) of this resolution by which the Conciliation Commission is "to assume, in so far as it considers necessary in existing circumstances, the functions given to the United Nations Mediator on Palestine by the resolution 186(S-2) of the General Assembly on 14 May 1948," and to paragraph 2 (c) by which the Commission is to undertake, upon the request of the Security Council, any of the functions now assigned to the United Nations Mediator on Palestine or to the United Nations Truce Commission by resolutions of the Security Council; upon such request to the Conciliation Commission by the Security Council with respect to all the remaining functions of the United Nations Mediator on Palestine under Security Council resolutions, the Office of the Mediator shall be terminated".

Resolutions of the Security Council assigning functions and responsibilities to the United Nations Mediator on Palestine are the following, all of which were adopted in 1948: 15 July (S/902), 19 October (S/1044 and S/1045), 4 November (S/1070), 16 November (S/1080) and 29 December (S/1169).

It is obviously desirable that the functions and responsibilities of the United Nations in its effort to achieve a peaceful adjustment of the Palestine situation should be centralized in one organ to the greatest extent possible. There are obvious disadvantages from a multiplicity of United Nations agencies or representatives working simultaneously on various aspects of the problem.

I have, therefore, assumed all along since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution of 11 December, that at an appropriate time the Security Council, taking note of that resolution, would invite the

/Conciliation

Conciliation Commission to undertake those functions deriving from Security Council resolutions now exercised by me.

At the moment I am representing the United Nations in the Rhodes negotiations on an armistice between Egypt and Israel and, on the invitation of the two delegations, serve as chairman of the joint meetings. It is my anticipation that these negotiations should be concluded - and I hope successfully - within a matter of days. I cannot predict at this time whether similar negotiations involving other Arab States will take place in the near future. I hope that this will be the case, and I have taken steps towards that end.

I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to the Chairman of the Conciliation Commission for his information.

Ralph J. Bunche
Acting Mediator

[REDACTED]