

**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY****ASSEMBLEE  
GENERALE**A/AC.13/NS/75  
7 August 1947  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE  
COMMUNICATION FROM THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE RELATING TO  
THE "EXODUS 1947"

The following cable has been received from the Jewish Agency for Palestine, relating to the "Exodus 1947".

The Jewish Agency for  
Palestine,  
16 EAST 66th STREET  
NEW YORK 21, N.Y.

24 July 1947.

To : UNSCOP

"I HAVE THE HONOR, ON BEHALF OF THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE, TO ADDRESS YOU WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING:

'1. THE 79TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON MAY 15, 1947, PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION :

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLS UPON ALL GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES AND PARTICULARLY ON THE INHABITANTS OF PALESTINE, TO REFRAIN, PENDING ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE FROM THE THREAT OR USE OF FORCE OR ANY OTHER ACTION WHICH MIGHT CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE PREJUDICIAL TO AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE.

'2. ON JUNE 22, 1947, THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE RESOLVED TO TRANSMIT TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, AN APPEAL OF CLEMENCY SUBMITTED TO IT BY THE RELATIVES OF THREE JEWS IN PALESTINE UPON WHOM SENTENCE OF DEATH HAD BEEN PASSED BY A BRITISH MILITARY COURT. IN SO DOING, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MAY 15, 1947, THE RELEVANT PARAGRAPH OF WHICH IS QUOTED ABOVE. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE THEREBY CLEARLY INDICATED ITS OPINION THAT THE EXECUTION OF THE DEATH SENTENCES BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHILE THE COMMITTEE WAS CONDUCTING ITS INVESTIGATIONS WAS LIKELY TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE PREJUDICIAL TO AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE.

DESPITE THIS ACTION, THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN PALESTINE REJECTED THE INITIATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND CONFIRMED THE DEATH SENTENCES, THEREBY GREATLY INCREASING TENSION AND VIOLENCE IN PALESTINE.

'3. ON JULY IN 1947, A SHIP, THE "EXODUS 1947" CARRYING MORE THAN 4,500 JEWISH DISPLACED PERSONS SEEKING REFUGE IN THEIR HOMELAND, WAS INTERCEPTED AND FORCIBLY SEIZED BY BRITISH WARSHIPS

/OUTSIDE

OUTSIDE TERRITORIAL WATERS AND IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW GOVERNING THE OPEN SEAS. THE EXODUS 1947 WAS RAMMED AND SEVERELY DAMAGED AND THE LIVES OF ALL ON BOARD WERE ENDANGERED. IN THE COURSE OF THE SEIZURE THREE PERSONS WERE KILLED AND APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED WERE INJURED, MANY OF THEM SERIOUSLY. THE EXODUS 1947 WAS BROUGHT TO HAIFA AND ITS PASSENGERS IMMEDIATELY TRANS-SHIPED TO OTHER VESSELS FOR RETURN TO FRANCE.

'4. THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THESE EVENTS TOOK PLACE HAVE COME AS A SHOCK TO THE CIVILIZED WORLD AND HAVE DEEPLY AGITATED THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN PALESTINE. THE FORCIBLE RETURN OF THESE SURVIVORS OF THE NAZI MASSACRES TO THE REFUGEE CAMPS OF EUROPE IS A SHAMEFUL AND INHUMAN ACTION CALCULATED TO DESTROY THEIR MORALE AND TO PRODUCE FURTHER ACTS OF DESPERATION AMONGST THEIR BRETHREN IN PALESTINE.

'5. FOR MANY MONTHS PAST IT HAD BEEN THE PRACTICE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO SEND TO CYPRUS REFUGEES ARRIVING IN PALESTINE OUTSIDE THE QUOTA, THERE TO AWAIT THEIR TURN FOR ADMISSION TO PALESTINE. THIS NEW AND DRASTIC DEPARTURE IN BRITISH POLICY, UNDERTAKEN PRECISELY AT A TIME WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS COMPLETING ITS WORK IN PALESTINE AND IS ABOUT TO PROCEED TO GENEVA FOR THE PREPARATION OF ITS REPORT, HAS CREATED IN PALESTINE AN ATMOSPHERE OF UTMOST BITTERNESS WHICH CANNOT BUT BE PREJUDICIAL TO AN EARLY SETTLEMENT. THE ACTION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD APPEAR TO STAND IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE RESPECTFULLY BRINGS THESE FACTS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ALSO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE BE APPRISED OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS NOTE.

SINCERELY YOURS,  
(SIGNED) ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
CHAIRMAN  
AMERICAN SECTION "