

United Nations

Nations Unies

SECURITY  
COUNCIL

CONSEIL  
DE SECURITE

UNRESTRICTED

S/761

21 May 1948

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

CABLEGRAM DATED 20 MAY 1948 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
TRUCE COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TRUCE COMMISSION INSTRUCTS ME TO  
TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO YOU: FURTHER TO MY EARLIER TELEGRAM I  
ESTABLISHED CONTACT YESTERDAY WITH THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ARAB LEGION IN  
JERUSALEM AND REACHED AGREEMENT WITH HIM REGARDING CROSSING THE LINES AND  
BRINGING HIM TEXT OF JEWISH AGENCY'S CEASE FIRE PROPOSAL STOP AS THE ESCORT  
PROVIDED BY THE RED CROSS ON MONDAY HAD WHEN RETURNING BEEN ATTACKED BY ARAB  
SOLDIERS WHO FIRED ON THE RED CROSS FLAG SERIOUSLY WOUNDING ONE OF THE  
OCCUPANTS OF THE CAR WE HAD TO TRY TO RE-CROSS THE LINES ON FOOT AS WE HAD  
DONE ON MONDAY EVENING IN ORDER TO GET BACK TO THE BRITISH CONSULATE CAR ON  
THE ARAB SIDE STOP AT THE TIME ARRANGED FOR CROSSING WHEN WE WERE HOPING TO  
OBTAIN A TEMPORARY CEASE FIRE ORDER FROM BOTH PARTIES SOME ARMoured CARS OF  
THE ARAB LEGION APPEARED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE BRITISH CONSULATE AND  
THE ROAD WE WERE TO HAVE TAKEN CAME UNDER HEAVY FIRE FROM THE ARAB LEGION-  
NAIRES WHO HAD SEIZED THE POLICE SCHOOL ON MOUNT SCOPUS STOP THE LEGION COM-  
MANDER WHOM I WAS TO GO AND SEE CONFESSED THAT OWING TO LACK OF CONTACT HE  
WAS UNABLE TO ORDER HIS MEN TO STOP FIRING STOP WE HAD TO ABANDON OUR PLAN  
STOP I TRANSMITTED TEXT OF JEWISH AGENCY'S LETTER BY TELEPHONE TO MY ENGLISH  
COLLEAGUE WHO PROMISED TO TAKE IT TO ARAB GENERAL HEADQUARTERS STOP A FEW  
MINUTES LATER HE INFORMED ME FROM THE HIGH COMMAND WHERE HE HAD GONE THAT THE  
REPLY OF THE ARAB CHIEFS WAS IN THE NEGATIVE SINCE THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO  
HEAR OF ANY ESTABLISHMENT OF A LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
JERUSALEM AND THE JEWISH QUARTER OF THE OLD CITY WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE  
INHABITANTS OF THE JEWISH QUARTER TO BE SUPPLIED WITH FOOD AND AMMUNITION STOP  
/ THE ARAB

RECEIVED

MAY 25 1948

UNITED NATIONS  
ARCHIVES

THE ARAB OFFICER TO WHOM I SPOKE THEN SAID HE WOULD ADHERE TO THE SURRENDER TERMS FOR THE JEWISH QUARTER OF THE OLD CITY WHICH WERE SUBMITTED TO THE JEWS ON SUNDAY EVENING AND COMMUNICATED TO THE JEWISH AGENCY BY MYSELF ON MONDAY EVENING STOP THESE CONDITIONS -- COMBATANTS TO BE PRISONERS OF WAR WOMEN CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE TO BE EVACUATED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE RED CROSS -- IMPOSED ON THE JEWS BESIEGED AND ENCIRCLED MONDAY EVENING AND THEN DECLARED UNACCEPTABLE BY THE JEWISH AGENCY WERE OF COURSE BOUND TO BE TURNED DOWN BY THE AGENCY AFTER IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO JOIN UP WITH THE SURROUNDED CONTINGENTS ON MONDAY EVENING STOP THE HOPE OF ACHIEVING A CEASE FIRE AT LEAST IN THE OLD CITY VANISHED LIKE SEVERAL OTHERS TO WHICH WE HAD CLUNG FOR A WEEK STOP LAST NIGHT THE ARAB TROOPS SHELLLED THE CITY AFRESH WITH ARTILLERY THIS TOGETHER WITH FOOD SHORTAGE CREATED A SITUATION THE FULL SERIOUSNESS OF WHICH NEED HARDLY BE EMPHASIZED STOP

JEAN NIEUWENHUY  
CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
TRUCE COMMISSION IN PALESTINE

NEUVILLE  
FRENCH CONSUL IN JERUSALEM.