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Israel - Jordan border

23 April 58

- Statement by chairman of Jordan - Israel Mixed Armistice Commission
- Resolution adopted at 308-th emergency meeting of the Jordan - Israel Mixed Armistice Commission.
- 1 cable to D.H. from A. Khalek Hassouna, Sec.-Gen. of the Ligue of the Arab States.
- 1 letter from D.H. to S. Rifai, Foreign Min. of Jordan

The following is the text of a statement made this morning in Jerusalem by the Chairman of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission as cabled to United Nations Headquarters by Major General Carl Carlsson von Horn, Chief of Staff of the UN Truce Supervision Organization. The statement was made at the conclusion of an emergency meeting of the Jordan-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission following the adoption of a resolution,* which had been tabled by the Jordanian delegation, by the two votes of the Jordanian delegation with the Chairman abstaining:

"I have abstained on this resolution because I do not consider that the MAC was empowered to take a decision on the Jordanian complaint. According to the established procedure of the MAC, agreement has to be reached between the parties on the investigation of a complaint, or on the admissibility of evidence in lieu thereof, before such complaint can be brought for consideration. The Israeli delegation has refused to agree to an investigation of the Jordanian complaint. It has also refused to agree that the data on military equipment in the Jerusalem area given to the Jordan representative on the Subcommittee on 21 April 1958 be accepted by the MAC in lieu of an investigation. During the debate, I regretfully noted that this position of the Israeli delegation made it impossible for the MAC to proceed with the consideration of the Jordan complaint.

"As there has been a decision of the MAC on the matter, taken by the affirmative vote of one party, in the absence of the other, myself abstaining, I wish to make the following observations:

"As regards the way in which the present situation has developed, it should be noted that both the Truce Supervision Organization and Jordan have been faced with a fait accompli. The Israel delegation informed me on 24th January and informed the Jordanian delegation on 27th February that a parade was going to be held in the new city of Jerusalem on 24 April, but no information was then given on the number of troops and the kind of equipment which would be brought into the city for this purpose. The TSO sought this information repeatedly, but did not receive detailed data until 17 April, when equipment prohibited in the Jerusalem area under Art. VII, Para. 1 of the General Armistice Agreement had already arrived. As indicated above, similar information was given by the junior Israel delegate to the junior Jordan delegate in the Subcommittee yesterday, 21 April.

"The stated purpose of Israel, in bringing prohibited equipment into the Jerusalem area, is to have such equipment in a military parade, in which the troops, tanks and guns are without ammunition. There is no reason to doubt that this represents the intention of the Israeli authorities. On the other hand, the Jordan Government has considered that, irrespective of Israel's intentions, there were risks in the situation created by Israel's action. It has taken counter measures,

(more)

* For text of resolution, see Note #1790.

as announced in the communique issued in Amman on 20 April, according to which orders have been given to reinforce the Jordan troops in the Jerusalem area and in the city itself and also to reinforce them with heavy weapons to the extent and quantities necessary to face the Israel weapons. Thus, following the Israel formal breach of the General Armistice Agreement, we are, as a consequence which Jordan has deemed necessary for her security, also faced with a formal breach by Jordan of the same Agreement.

"In the situation which now prevails, the main preoccupation of the Truce Supervision Organization must be twofold: to cooperate with both parties with a view to preventing incidents while the General Armistice Agreement is being violated through the presence of prohibited military equipment or forces in the Jerusalem area; and to secure as soon as possible the reestablishment of compliance by both sides with Article VII, Paragraph 1 of the General Armistice Agreement. Certain measures aimed at minimizing the risk of incidents have already been recommended by the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization. I firmly hope that both parties will fully cooperate with him and also that they will impress on their respective army, police and civilian population the necessity of complying with the instructions they have issued in order to avoid incidents."

* *** *

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

The following is the text of a press release issued today (23 April) at the Headquarters of the UN Truce Supervision Organization in Jerusalem.

"At the 308th emergency meeting of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission held on 22-23 April, in the absence of the Israel delegation, the following resolution tabled by the Jordan delegation was adopted by the two votes of the Jordan delegation, with the Chairman^{*}/abstaining:

"The Mixed Armistice Commission, having discussed the Subcommittee meeting report dated 21 April 1958 written for investigation on Jordan complaint No. 609, finds: that the Israeli authorities concentrated troops with heavy military equipment, 80 tanks, 24 guns of 155mm and 12 guns of 105mm caliber, and 900 soldiers.

"Decides that this concentration of the above-mentioned troops and tanks with the heavy equipment in the Israeli sector of Jerusalem by the Israeli authorities is a serious and intended breach of Article 7, Paragraph 1 of the General Armistice Agreement, and Paragraph 1 (a) and Paragraph 2 (a) of Annex 2 to the General Armistice Agreement.

"Calls upon the Israeli authorities to withdraw immediately all the above-mentioned forces, tanks and heavy equipment out of Jerusalem and any other forces beyond the defensive forces allowed in the General Armistice Agreement.

"Requests that the United Nations observe the execution of this resolution by Israel and inform Jordan within 12 hours from the time of adoption of this resolution."

* *** *

*/ A statement by the Chairman relating to the above resolution is contained in Note No. 1789.

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23 APR 1958

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SON EXCELLENCE M DAG HAMMARSKJOELD SECRETAIRE GENERAL DES
NATIONS UNIES NEWYORK

IL EST A LA CONNAISSANCE DE VOTRE EXCELLENCE QU A L OCCASION
DES FETES ORGANISEES PAR ISRAEL DES CONCENTRATIONS DE TROUPES
DE TOUTES LES ARMES ONT LIEU ACTUELLEMENT DANS LA PARTIE DE
JERUSALEM OCCUPEE PAR ISRAEL STOP CES MANIFESTATIONS

P2

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VILLE INTERNATIONALE PLACEE SOUS L ADMINISTRATION DES NATIONS
UNIES AURONT NECESSAIREMENT UNE REPERCUSSION FACHEUSE SUR
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UNE NOUVELLE FORME DE LA

P3

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SITUATION DONT LE MOINS QU ON PUISSE DIRE EST QU ELLE

P4

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STOP PRIE VOTRE EXCELLENCE AGREER ASSURANCES TRES HAUTE
CONSIDERATION

ABDEL KHALEK HASSOUNA SECRETAIRE GENERAL LIGUE DES
ETATS ARABES

UNATIONS
23 APR 23 11 06 57
TELEGRAPH UNIT

23 April 1958

I am informed about the outcome of today's meeting in the Mixed Armistice Commission. While fully appreciating the reasons which have prompted the position taken by the Jordan representatives, I wish to inform you that, taking all the circumstances into account, I fully endorse the stand in substance taken by the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission. I am convinced that in the situation which has arisen, his position is the best basis for further efforts to maintain the situation under control, and I trust that you understand that neither he nor the Chief of Staff nor I myself, in following this line, fail to take into full account the legitimate interests of Jordan.

Through the arrangements made by Israel and the subsequent steps taken by Jordan, we have been presented with a fait accompli in which the best safeguards for the purposes of the Armistice agreement have seemed to us to be to ensure what now emerges clearly through the assurances given by the Government of Israel and to provide for adequate security measures on both sides. I take for granted that Jordan, on its side, will re-establish the status quo ante when corresponding steps are being taken by Israel.

May I finally appeal to you that, as stated by the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission, you will fully cooperate with the Chief of Staff and also that you will impress upon your army, police and public the necessity of complying with the instructions you have issued in order to avoid incidents. A similar appeal has been made to the Government of Israel.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency,
Mr. Samir Rifa'i,
Vice-Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Dag Hammarskjold