

**Small files: Israel -
Israel-Jordan border,
Israel-Syria border, Said
Al-Sh...**

HS L 179:184



Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Israel - Syria border

3 Sept. 60

2 messages from R. Buche to Gen. von Horn
and Mohr (Tel Aviv)

- sent to D. H. for information.

3/9/60

To: The Secretary-General

For your
information
& files.

R-

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Major-General C.C. von Horn
Chief of Staff, UNTSO

9 March

60

Ralph J. Bunche
Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs

In response to the suggestion contained in paragraph 2 of your memorandum of 4 March addressed to Mr. Cordier, I enclose a copy of my letter to Mr. Sharett of 13 July 1949 (delivered in Tel Aviv on 14 July).

I am somewhat puzzled, however, by your reference to my letter of 26 June 1949 to the two Parties as "the covering letter to the 'authoritative comment'". The letter of 26 June, to which you refer, was really two letters - one to each Party, and relates to the compromise proposals which were cabled to Tel Aviv and Damascus on 27 May for simultaneous delivery, and were finally delivered to the two Parties in early June. What is now referred to as the "authoritative comment" of 26 June, was sent in response to questions raised in the meeting of 21 June. Apparently, it was not accompanied by a separate letter, but was handed to the two Parties in the form of a Note prepared by Vigier. The confusion may be due to the fact that the two communications, though not directly related, bear the same date.

cc: Mr. Cordier

OUTGOING CABLE - CODE

TO: MOHN (TEL AVIV) INFO VIGIER, RILEY (DAMASCUS)
FROM: BUNCHE
DATE: 13 July 1949
NO: HQMED 766-767

Communicate following to Sharett most urgently:

"I am exerting every effort to clear the final obstacle to the Israeli-Syrian armistice agreement and toward this end Vigier and Riley will visit Tel Aviv on my behalf in order to confer with you. I earnestly hope that you will see them at your earliest possible convenience. They have reported to me today 13th July that as a result of yesterday's meeting of the military sub-committee both sides have accepted the armistice line east of Samak proposed by General Riley, but the Syrian acceptance of this part of the line was conditioned by three reservations put forth by Zaim. These reservations have been communicated to you by your delegation, which, I understand, has accepted one, that relating to no Israeli advances beyond present truce line, while rejecting the other two.

From the beginning of these negotiations, as you are well aware, our great problem has been to induce the Syrians to accept the fundamental and unalterable Israeli condition, namely, the withdrawal of Syrian military forces from positions now strongly held by them in Palestine. Our greatest efforts have had to be directed toward this end, since it was clear to us from the outset that an armistice agreement could not be otherwise obtained, and for this purpose Vigier and Riley have spent most of their time in Damascus throughout these negotiations. The Syrians have now accepted the basic condition. It is true, also, that your Delegation has made concessions, and thus the present state of almost complete agreement has been reached. In this connexion, I think

you will agree that considering that this is an armistice agreement and not a final settlement, the concessions made by your Delegation have not affected adversely any vital Israeli claim or position.

You may recall that in our discussion in my office during your recent visit to Lake Success, you indicated to me that the indispensable condition for the armistice was Syrian withdrawal and that if this could be assured the Israeli position could be adequately flexible on issues of detail.

I know that you share my urgent desire that these unnecessarily prolonged negotiations be quickly concluded by an armistice agreement. I wish you to know also that I deeply and personally appreciate the full co-operation which you and your Government's delegations have extended to me in all of the armistice negotiations. I am requesting now only that you hear carefully the explanations of the Syrian reservations which Vigier and Riley will make in their conference with you and that you will go as far as you reasonably can toward meeting them in order that this final agreement may be speedily concluded. I am certain that what is involved in these reservations will in no wise affect any vital Israeli interests.

I apologise for once again making a personal appeal to you. But I do so now as in the past, only because of the crucial nature of the situation and the obviously imperative necessity of concluding this final armistice agreement at the earliest possible moment in order that the military phase of the Palestine conflict may be finally and fully liquidated. With most cordial regards, I am, as always, your devoted servant in the cause of peace in Palestine.

RALPH BUNCHE"