

Small files: Israel - Mount Scopus, UNTSO - incoming/outgoing code cables: ...

HS L 179:185a



National Library
of Sweden

Dag Hammarskjöld's samml.

L 779:185

Middle East

Project Bell

UNTSO

Incoming / Outgoing code cables

Aug. - Sept. 58

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TOP SECRET

TO: HAMMARSKJOLD
FROM: BURNS, GAZA
DATE: 4 AUGUST 1958 0957
NUMBER: UNEF 1587

1. After seeing Von Horn last weekend in Jerusalem I received indirect information local leaders interested in newspaper reports you were considering some sort of U.N. protection for Jordan including stationing U.N. Force in country. I believe if idea were advanced west bank Jordanian reaction would probably be favourable in view of prevailing uncertainty and tension. They greatly fear that if Jordan came under U.A.R. control or even joined Iraq regime Israel might move to take over west bank or part thereof. Jordanians realize U.A.R. could not prevent this by military action.

2. If in fact you have in mind such an interim solution and wish me to do so I could send letter giving extended views on how a U.N. Force in Jordan might operate.

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TOP SECRET

TO: HAMMARSKJOLD
FROM: BURNS, GAZA
DATE: 5 AUGUST 1958 1418
NUMBER: UNEF 1596

Reference your 1249 am forwarding memorandum as suggested by pouch number 166 which should arrive New York 8 August.

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TO: SECRETARY-GENERAL
FROM: VON HORN, JERUSALEM
DATE: 8 AUGUST 1958 1924 DST
NUMBER: UNTSO 1220

Reur message. Have an appointment with Rifai at 1000Z 9 August.
Will advise further after meeting.

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TOP SECRET

TO: SECRETARY GENERAL
FROM: VON HORN, JERUSALEM
DATE: 9 AUGUST 1958 1251
NUMBER: UNTSO 1222

Had very cordial forty-five minutes with Rifai (Barghouti and Nelson present). Rifai very receptive to increasing UNMOs on West Bank. He asked ("bluntly" as he said), did I have any specific knowledge of pending action by other party which prompted this proposal. I advised him that it was merely "precautionary". He further agreed that it would be a good idea for an UNMO to "hand around" Amman and have a daily coffee at the Army Hq.

I have selected Lt Colonel Burn, New Zealand, for task LO position. For the moment I intend to increase manning present posts Nablus, Hebron and Latrun to 2 UNMOs each so that I can patrol area. Later I intend (to which Rifai agreed) to have UNMOs at Jenin, Qualquilya and at Jericho.

Initially Rifai stated he expected observation posts on a "reciprocal basis" on both sides of the lines; However, I pointed out that it was not envisaged that we would have them on the D Line but patrolling. I am making estimates now for UNMO requirements and propose to ask Burns for temporary loan UNEF officers whom I can use in ISMAC and release more experienced UNMOs for Jordan.

Plan to leave tomorrow via Damascus to board SAS flight.

Most grateful for your understanding and support. Kindest regards to 38th fraternity.

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TO: SECRETARY GENERAL
FROM: ACTING C.O.S., JERUSALEM
DATE: 11 AUGUST 1958 0943
NUMBER: UNTSO 1232

French language Tel Aviv Daily L'Information 11 August reports that Chief of Staff had one hour talk with Rifai Saturday. "He had been instructed by SecGen to intervene with Jordan authorities for increase of number UNMOs for implementation Israel-Jordan GAA".

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TOP SECRET

TO: SECRETARY-GENERAL
FROM: ACTING C.O.S., Jerusalem
DATE: 12 August 1958
NUMBER: UNTSO 1237

Posts at Hebron, Nablus and Latrun now manned by two Observers each. UNMOs have moved around in area from these stations in vicinity of D-Line. Visits made to Jenin and Tullarm (better accommodations than Qalqiliya) to-day to arrange accommodations. Visit to vicinity of Irbid (suggested by Jordanians for accommodation) tomorrow which will be used as a station from which visits vicinity Jordan river line. Jericho will be used for station for visits from Dead Sea to Israel-Jordan D-Line in Jordan valley. General plan is that Observers will make daily visits along D-Line and Jordan river valley (Dead Sea to Naharyimy.)

Will proceed with fuller implementation of plan when additional Observers secured from UNEF. L.O. reporting to Amman tomorrow morning.

TOP SECRET

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TO: SECRETARY GENERAL
FROM: ACTING C.O.S., JERUSALEM
DATE: 15 AUGUST 1958 1315
NUMBER: UNTSO 1248

Reour 1237. UNEF has not supplied additional officers yet. Assume G.A. discussions and Jordan delegate announcement in New York about Observers or U.N. Force in Jordan do not prevent procuring Observers for Qualqilya, Jenin, Irbid and Jericho?

TOP SECRET

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TO: SECRETARY-GENERAL
FROM: NELSON, JERUSALEM
DATE: 19 AUGUST 1958 1250 DST
NUMBER: UNTSO 1261

Further 1248. UNEF now making 6 officers available tomorrow. Will have one observer at each station except Qualqilya by Thursday morning. Have instructed observers to make daily patrols along DLine and that their mission is to offer any assistance requested by Jordan authorities. Officer "Hanging around" Amman since last Wednesday. Have not raised question whether Rifai might have changed mind on our observers in view recent announcements. When Barghouti was advised delay in manning all stations he expressed surprise that posts not already occupied. Cooperation therefore still evident. In answer their queries posts other side have advised them "Matter in hand". If you agree, would like to call operation "Project Bell" for any administrative matters in ordinary code.

SS files

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TO: CORDIER
FROM: VON HORN, JERUSALEM
DATE: 12 SEPTEMBER 1958 1021
NUMBER: UNTSO 1353

I have received signal dated 11 September 1958 from Secretary General stating that I am to freeze my buildup of Project Bell as so far developed. SecGen further stated that I should ask you to take immediate steps to fill my need for Observers which should include a cushion which he might draw upon for the East Bank should it prove necessary.

My present strength is 71 Observers. To fulfill my commitment for Project Bell and maintain the cushion as requested by SecGen I require a total strength of 96 Military Observers, i.e. I need 25 additional Observers. I have written a letter on this and it will be in next pouch.

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TOP SECRET

TO: BURNS GAZA
FROM: SECGEN
DATE: 4 August 1958
NUMBER: 1249

Thanks suggestion UNEF 1587. It is still most uncertain whether discussion may turn in direction of UN force in Jordan, especially on West bank. You easily see possible political objections. However, it is not excluded that discussion will take that turn. For that reason your personal views on how UN force in Jordan might operate would be useful and highly appreciated. At the final last, it will of course be the reaction of the Government of Jordan which will determine the issue. Nothing is known about their views.

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TOP SECRET

PRIORITY UNATIONS

VON HORN
TO: JERUSALEM
FROM: SEC BEN
DATE: 8 August 1958
NUMBER: UNTSO 565

Although I stick firmly to my line that you should take your chance to get away as planned, and although I assume that during the period of the GA debate things will be very quiet in the field, I cannot exclude unexpected and drastic changes in view of internal weakness of Jordan. Were this weakness suddenly to stand revealed, there are some trigger-happy people who might try to present to the world a "perfect" moral case for intervention. I therefore suggest for your consideration that, before leaving, you build up UNTSO presence on the West bank, discreetly, at such points as you would judge to be of strategic significance in this situation. You might perhaps usefully/ find time for a fare-well call in Amman on Rifai, to whom you might drop, in an off-handish way, an indication of what you do. I would not find it out of the way if you were to leave somebody who is fairly senior hanging around for a while in Amman if that were agreeable to Rifai.

All these matters being difficult to judge from a distance, I would appreciate your reaction to my suggestions so that I might brief Jordan delegation and British here, if need be.

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TOP SECRET

TO: VON HORN JERUSALEM

PRIORITY UNATIONS

FROM: SECGEN

DATE: 9 August 1958 ✓

NUMBER: 569

Warm thanks useful operation with most satisfactory outcome.

Quite agreed with your approach to implementation.

There is not the slightest ^{indication} ~~intention~~ of "pending action by other party".

Have a good time with perfect conscience. All good wishes.