

TRANSLATION OF LETTER TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
FROM THE HEADS OF THE LEBANESE AND SYRIAN DELEGATIONS

London,  
4th February, 1946.

Mr. Trygve Lie,  
Secretary-General,  
United Nations

Mr. Secretary-General,

French and British troops are still being maintained in Syria and the Lebanon, although hostilities terminated many months ago.

The presence of these troops, which constitutes a grave infringement of the sovereignty of two States Members of the United Nations may give rise to serious disputes. The past has shown that some of these troops have been a constant menace to peace and security in this region.

The Governments of Syria and the Lebanon expected that these foreign troops would be withdrawn immediately on the cessation of hostilities with Germany and Japan, and as a result of the representations they have made unceasingly to that end. But on 13th December, 1945, they were notified of a Franco-British agreement, of which we reproduce the following extract:

"The programme of evacuation will be drawn up in such a way that it will ensure the maintenance in the Levant of sufficient forces to guarantee security, until such time as the United Nations Organisation has decided on the organisation of collective security in this zone.

"Until these arrangements have been carried out, the French Government will retain forces regrouped in the Lebanon."

This agreement, accordingly, makes the withdrawal of foreign troops subject to conditions which are inconsistent with the spirit and letter of the United Nations Charter.

Therefore, since the two contracting Powers have themselves referred, in the aforesaid Agreement, to the United Nations, the Syrian and Lebanese Delegations, acting on the instructions of their Governments have the honour, in accordance with Article 34 of the Charter, to bring this dispute to the attention of the Security Council and to request it to adopt a decision recommending the total and simultaneous evacuation of the foreign troops from the Syrian and Lebanese territories.

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They are ready to assist the Security Council by supplying it with all relevant information for the purpose.

We have the honour to be,

etc.

H. FRANGIE (sgd.)

F. KHOURI (sgd.)

HEAD OF THE LEBANESE DELEGATION

HEAD OF THE SYRIAN DELEGATION

