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8/757  
20 May 1948

ORIGINAL: ENCL1

CABLEGRAM DATED 19 MAY 1948 FROM THE PALESTINE TRUCE COMMISSION ADDRESSED TO  
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following is text of telegram from Shertok to Kohn handed to Chairman  
Truce Commission May 19:

"To Leo Kohn from M. Shertok for Chairman Security Council Truce  
Commission Jerusalem.

"Greatly regret interruption civilian traffic to Jerusalem make personal  
contact with you and Commission temporarily impossible. Meanwhile address  
myself to you in writing on matter which brooks no delay. Am transmitting  
regularly authentic information on course Arab invasion to Security Council  
through our representatives in New York but am informed that unless this  
information confirmed by you, Security Council may not be in position take  
official cognizance of our reports. Therefore, would be grateful if you  
arrange for immediate cable report to be sent Security Council on present  
position to be followed by further progress reports. In interests authenticity  
and speed, take liberty suggesting that Colonel Lund be authorized to come to  
Tel Aviv keep close liaison with us and report Security Council direct on  
your behalf. Factual position is as follows:

"Since Saturday morning planes of Egyptian Air Force have been raiding  
Tel Aviv several times daily, bombing and machine-gunning causing destruction  
and loss life. At least three planes brought down by our ground defenses,  
two pilots captured alive, held prisoners. Planes bear Egyptian Air Force  
markings, pilot pay books in possession.

"2. Egyptian planes also bombed Niram Settlement in South Palestine.

"3. Several mechanized columns of Egyptian Regular Forces operating  
in South Palestine. One of them repeatedly attacked Niram Settlement with  
Tanks and Artillery. Attacks so far repulsed with heavy losses to invaders.

"4. Unidentified, probably Iraqi, planes been bombing settlements East  
and South Lake Tiberias: Ein Gev, Ash Dot Yaakov, Afikim, Massada, Shaar  
Hagolan, as well as Tiberias City.

"5. Mechanized Iraqi column invaded territory State Israel East of  
Jordan and Lake Tiberias, launched shell fire attacks against Jewish  
positions Samakh and settlements Shaar Hagolan, Ash Dot and Afikim.

"6. Forces Arab Legion of Transjordan occupied Palestine Electric  
Corporation power house on confluence Jordan and Yarmuk Rivers after shelling  
buildings and damaging works. This column now reported moving towards  
Jewish Settlement Beth Yosef in Northern part Beisan Alley within territory  
State Israel.

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"7. Another column Arab Legion crossed Allenby Bridge turned North along Jordan Valley and reached Nablus whence one part proceeded West toward Coastal Plain and another South towards Lamallah. Latter force attacked and occupied Jewish Settlement Nveh Yaakov presumably in preparation for attack on Jewish Jerusalem.

"8. Arab Legion column after heavily attacking Jewish Settlement of Kfar Etzion group between Jerusalem and Hebron which resulted in their destruction and large scale loss of life turned South towards Beersheba and occupied Iraq Suweidan Police Station within State Israel territory.

"Would appreciate intimation whether suggestion regarding Lund accepted and what action you found possible take."

Should Security Council wish Truce Commission to undertake confirmation of such reports, it will be necessary for SC to provide Truce Commission with a staff of competent military observers at once.

(signed) WASSON

