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LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1948, FROM THE ACTING MEDIATOR ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING COPIES OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL AND TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF EGYPT, IRAQ, LEBANON, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, TRANSJORDAN AND YEMEN

26 November 1948

I have the honour to present the following communications, relating to the resolution on the armistice in Palestine adopted by the Security Council on 16 November (S/1080), for transmission to the President of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ralph J. Bunche
Acting Mediator.

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LETTER DATED 17 NOVEMBER 1948 FROM THE ACTING MEDIATOR TO THE PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF EGYPT, IRAQ, LEBANON,
SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, TRANSJORDAN AND YEMEN

Paris, 17 November 1948

I have the honour to communicate with you on the subject of the resolution adopted by the Security Council at its 381st meeting on 16 November, which has been communicated to your Government by the President of that Council. This resolution decides that an armistice shall be established in all sectors of Palestine and calls upon the parties directly involved in the Palestine conflict "as a further provisional measure under Article 40 of the Charter, to seek agreement forthwith ... with a view to the immediate establishment of the Armistice ...".

It is noted that the Security Council in this resolution has expressed its will that the armistice called for be immediately established.

In pursuance of both the letter and spirit of the resolution, I feel it my duty to approach without delay the parties directly concerned on the subject of the negotiations necessary to the establishment of the armistice in Palestine.

An essential first step in the implementation of the resolution would appear to be a determination of the wishes of the parties concerned as to the procedure to be followed in the negotiations called for. In this connexion, your attention is directed to paragraph five of the resolution, by which the necessary negotiations to be undertaken by the parties may be conducted either directly or through the Acting Mediator on Palestine.

In the interest of all the parties, and particularly for the sake of the long suffering peoples of Palestine, it is to be hoped the negotiations on the armistice will be promptly initiated and will meet with early success. I am convinced that all parties involved in this tragic conflict sincerely desire peace. The resolution of the Security Council affords a challenging opportunity for both sides to give concrete expression to this desire.

I wish to reiterate my sincere belief that the interests of all parties to this dispute would be best served by direct negotiations undertaken by the parties themselves. But whether the parties decide that the negotiations should proceed directly or through a United Nations intermediary, the services and good offices of myself and staff are always at their disposal for every possible assistance in the effort to achieve peace in Palestine.

I would be greatly appreciative if at a very early date you would find it convenient to communicate to me the views of your Government on the

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procedure to be followed in achieving the armistice.

(Signed) Ralph J. Bunche
Acting Mediator

LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER FROM THE ACTING-MEDIATOR TO THE
GOVERNMENTS OF EGYPT, IRAQ, LEBANON, SAUDI ARABIA,
SYRIA, TRANSJORDAN AND YEMEN

Paris, 26 November 1948

I have the honour to communicate to you the attached copy of the response of the Provisional Government of Israel to my letter of 17 November addressed to all parties in the Palestine dispute concerning the implementation of the Security Council's resolution of 16 November on the armistice.

In this regard may I call to your attention that as of this date no reply to my letter has been received from your Government.

(Signed) Ralph J. Bunche
Acting Mediator

LETTER DATED 25 NOVEMBER 1948 FROM THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL
TO THE ACTING MEDIATOR

Paris, 25 November 1948

I have the honour to refer to your letter of November 17 concerning the procedure to be used in order to establish an armistice in Palestine. In this connexion, I desire to draw attention to the following two paragraphs of the observations of the Provisional Government of Israel with reference to the resolutions adopted by the Security Council on 4th and 16th November (S/1081 of 19 November 1948):

"The Government reaffirms its policy of adherence to the principles of the United Nations. It welcomes the Security Council's decision that, 'in order to eliminate the threat to the peace in Palestine and to facilitate the transition from the present truce to permanent peace in Palestine, an armistice shall be established in all sectors of Palestine'. The Government notes with satisfaction that the Security Council 'calls upon the parties as a further provisional measure under Article 40 of the Charter, to seek agreement forthwith, by negotiations conducted either directly or through the Acting Mediator on Palestine, with a view to the immediate establishment of an armistice'. The Government of Israel is much encouraged by the reiterated call for direct negotiations made in the Security Council's resolutions of the 4th and 16th November.

It is the consistent policy and practice of the Government of Israel to seek negotiations with the Arab States, whose armies invaded Palestine in wanton defiance of the Charter, with a view to arriving at a permanent peace as envisaged in the resolution of November 16th. The Government of Israel is most anxious to see these negotiations brought to a speedy and successful conclusion and requests that it be notified without delay of the time and place at which its accredited representatives may meet accredited representatives of the Arab States."

With regard to the procedure to be adopted, I wish to point out that the Provisional Government of Israel would prefer direct negotiations with the other parties. Should, however, this procedure not be immediately practicable the Provisional Government of Israel would be prepared to

negotiate through United Nations intermediaries. I wish to repeat that my Government is most anxious for these negotiations to start as soon as possible.

(Signed)

Moshe Shertok

Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Provisional Government of Israel

