

CABLEGRAM DATED 15 JUNE 1948 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Following from United Nations Mediator for President Security Council.

In my view truce has worked well first few days taking account all circumstances including difficulties encountered regarding communications and getting observers to strategic points and fronts in time. I anticipated it would be inevitable that unfortunate incidents would occur especially during early days of truce. In fact incidents fewer than I had anticipated. In some instances local commanders apparently were overeager to consolidate gains made shortly before truce began or to regain strategic points lost. I personally visited most difficult Jerusalem sector Saturday June 12 and found all quiet and little tension although frontlines in some places too close together for safety. Negotiations underway locally Jerusalem sector to correct this situation. From Jerusalem I went to Damascus and Tel Aviv to confer on incidents along Syrian Lebanese fronts which appeared to be the most disturbing of those reported. Latest reports indicate no fighting on any fronts now.

Have received following reports on incidents since beginning of truce and action has been taken as indicated. Where military observers not available in time because of their failure to arrive on the dates promised have utilized services members of Secretariat to good advantage.

Incidents and action taken:

1. First report from Glubb Pasha June 11 regarding killing one Arab Legion soldier at Sheikhjarrah by Jewish snipers. Reports my Jerusalem observers and my personal investigation on spot indicated this was an unfortunate but isolated incident with extenuating circumstances.
2. Complaints by Syrian Government on June 11 and 12 that on those days Jewish forces were firing into Syrian positions at Mishmar Hay Yarden and Dardarrah, latter involving aerial bombing of bridge over Jordan. Shertok made similar allegations to me regarding same front from Jewish side on June 13. By time my observer Colonel Delavah, Swedish, arrived at front June 12 all fighting had stopped. Both sides in agreement that Syrian offensive had begun few hours before truce deadline and had made some gains. Syrians claim they ceased fire half-hour before deadline. Jews claim offensive continued. One reliable military source reported seeing Jewish mortar bursts on Syrian lines June 11 after truce hour with no Syrian reply. Identification of

planes bombing after truce not positive as action occurred after nightfall. I personally discussed the incidents with highest authorities in Damascus and Tel Aviv and received assurances that forces both sides will observe the truce.

3. Complaint from Lebanese Government regarding attacks by Jewish forces after midnight June 13 at Chajara, Qadas and Malike. Secretariat member visited these sectors June 13 and reports all quiet now.

There may be additional incidents which have been dealt with by observers on the locality and full facts not available. Several Tel Aviv complaints filed with local representatives have been handled from Haifa and Tel Aviv.

(signed) FOLKE BERNADOTTE

