First Joint Formal Meeting

. Israeli - Transjordan Armistice Negotiations

 ' Rhodes

March 19U9, U:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Israeli Delegation

Mr. Reuven Shiloah

Sgan Alouf Mo she Dayan

Sgan Alouf Dan Loehner

Rav Seren Shaul Ramati

Rav Seren Yehoshafat Harakahi

Delegation of Transjordan

Colonel Ahmed Sudki Bey el Jundi Lt. Colonel Mohamed Bey Ma«־ayta Major Radi Bey Hindawi Captain Ali Bey Aim Nowar

United Nations

Dr. Ralph Banc he (Chairman)־ Colonel Thomas Conlin jar. Saleh Mahmoud Commandant Albert Durre Dr. M.A. Shamsee.

DR. BUNCHE: I now open the first joint formal meeting of the

Israeli-Transjordan Armistice Negotiations•

Yoh have ,before you a draft agenda, which will remain a draft agenda until adapted hy this meeting. As you will notice, the first order of ,business on the draft agenda is the selection of the Chairman of these negotiations, I open the floor to the Delegations in order that they may indicate their desire as regards the Chairman of the negotiations. The Chief of the Delegation of Transjordan has the floor.

COIL. SUDKI BEY EL JUNDI; The Transjordan Delegation proposes the

the choice of Dr. Bunche as Chairman.

SHI-LOAH: I support the mot#!on.

DR. BUNCHE: I hear no other motions - so I presume I am trapped.

. . ' Thank you very much for this consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend tp both Delegations a formal welcome to this pleasant and hospitable island of Rhodes. It is fitting that in the quiet dignity of this

community you should conduct negotiations designed to restore peace to Palestine. You could find no better atmosphere for it and no people more neutral and tolerant in their attitudes or more hospitable to strangers in their midst.

On last Thursday morning, 2k February, a General Armistice Agreement between Egypt and Israel was signed. This was the first armistice concluded in cojspliance with the request of the Security Council in its resolution of 16 November 19^8•

The negotiation leading to the course of these negotiations, and I see no reason why the negotiations in which you are now engaged should not be successfully concluded in a much shorter time.

The greatest lesson which was learned by all concerned with the previous negotiations was that agreement can be obtained only if both of the negotiating parties are intent upon .finding the road to peace and are willing to negotiate with good will , mutual trustfulness, reciprocal respect, and a spirit •of give and take.

1

. / • You two Parties have already taken a voluntary first step toward peace in the form of the cease-fire agreement in the Jerusalem area which you voluntarily negotiated and entered into on 30 November 191+8. You have also, through dircet negotiations, arranged for and carried out an exchange of prisoners of war.

The step .you are now called upon to take, the conclusion of an armistice agreement, is a much bigger one, but the direction is the same.

I recognize that both parties to these negotiations have vital intersts at stake. Yet I doubt that any of these intersts is .as vital to either party as the achievement of

peace in Palestine.

•These negotiations are entirely in your hands. All decisions are yours iio make. I am here as a representative of the United Nations to afford you every possible assistance in reaching agreement. My entire staff, civilian and military alike, is at your disposal. I May assure you that ־ the United Nations hopes and expects that

you will reach agreement. If that agreement cannot be quickly found, then we will take the time necessary to find it. But find it we must.

The credentials of the two Delegations, issued by their Governments, have been handed to me. These credentials entitle the Delegations to negotiate and sign an armistice agree- ment. The authority of clarified by means of communications now in process. The letters of credential which have been handed to me by the two Delegations, will be formally entered in the

redord of this meeting.

The next item of business is the adoption of the agenda for the negotiations. This agenda, which is before you in the copies placed on the table, has been informally discussed and informally approved by each Delegation. The scope of the agenda, in terms of the authority of the Transjordan Delegation as regards Iraq, is something which will be clarified in the communications to which I previously made reference. If I hear no objection from either side, I will consider the agenda - the draft agenda before you - as formally approved, and will have it so entered in the record of this meeting.

2

COLONEL SUSHI BST SL JUKDI: It is approved.

MR. SHILOAH; No objection.

DR. BUNCHE? !here being no objectiont it is so ordered.

Is there any further business before the meeting which either Delegation may wish to bring up?

COLONEL SUDKI BEY EL JUNDI: Nothing from our side.

MR. SHILOAH; No.

DR. BUNCHEs There being no further business before this meeting,

I now propose to adjourn.

The next joint formal meeting will be called by the Chairman after consultation with both Delegations. The procedure X propose to follow is that born of experience in the previous negotiations. I will meet separately with each Delegation on the various points, and afterwards try to bring the Delegatioi together in a spirit of conciliation and goodwill, in order to employ every possible effort to reach agreement in the shortest possible time. I am sure that both Delegations at this table, having gone to the trouble of coming this distance - having taken the serious step of coming to Rhodes to negotiate an agreement - will enter into the negotiations with a spirit of determination to reach agreement and to meet each other as often as is necessary, in a conciliatory spirit, towards the end of achieving prompt agreement.

Theiebeing no further business, I now adjourn the the first formal joint meeting of the Israeli-Transjordan armistice negotiations.

3

Approved Agenda for

ISEaeli-TransJordan Negotiations

1. Selection of Chairman

2. Credentials of Delegations

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Signing of formal cease-fire agreement.

5. Implementation of the Security Council resolution of 16 November 1948.

6. Consideration of draft armistice agreement

7. Signing of armistice agreement.

4

4 March. 1949

Opening Statement of the Acting Mediator at the First Joint Formal Meeting of the Israeli-Transjordan Armistice Negotiations.

(Yellow Boom, 4 March 1949 at 4:30 p.m.)

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last Thursday morning, 24 February, a General Armistice !Agreement between Egypt and Israel was signed. This was the first armistiee concluded in compliance with the request of the Security Council in its resolution of 16 November 1948.

The negotiations leading to; that Agreement took exactly six weeks. Rich experience was gained in the course of those negotiations, and I see no reason why the negotiations in which you are now engaged should not be successfully concluded in a much shorter time.

The greatest lesson which was learned by all concerned with the previous negotiations was that agreement can be obtained only if both of the negotiating parties are intent are intent upon finding the road to peace and are willing to negotiate with good will , mutual trustfullness, reciprocal respect\* and a spirit of give and take.

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6