

SECRET

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
ISRAEL DEFENCE FORCES

S/437-688

July 4th 1951



Aloof M. Makleff  
Aloof Pikud Hazafon  
Mr. Shiloah  
Mr. Palmon  
Mr. Divon  
Sgan Aloof Hanegbi  
Agam/Mivzayim  
Agam/Medi'in

Policy with regard to Shaab

In a meeting at 1730 hours on the 3rd of July 1951 in the Northern Command, in which took part Aloof Avidar, Mr. Palmon and Sgan Aloof Ramati, the following was decided in connection with the return of the villagers of Baqqara and Ghanama from Shaab to the demilitarized zone.

1. Only those Arabs who had signed a request to return to the DZ would be allowed to mount the transport on Thursday, 5th of July 1951.
2. The transport, which would consist of civilian trucks, would report to a member of the Israel Delegation to the ISMAC in Haifa at 2300 hours on the 4th of July. (This arrangement had been agreed for the 3rd of July, but was postponed for 24 hours due to the Moslem Feast).
3. The UN would, if possible, not be allowed to go to the village of Shaab again (i.e. for the mounting onto the trucks or interrogation of the remaining 100 Arabs to be questioned).
4. The villagers who return to the DZ should be encamped together at Baqqara (in this connection it is unfortunate that some of the habitable hovels were not destroyed in Ghanama).
5. For the transfer of UNWRA tents from Syria, a specific time should be fixed between us and Colonel Taxis and a member of the Israel Delegation should be present at the time the transfer takes place.
6. Arab heads of those families which return to the DZ, who themselves are in Syria, will be allowed to return to the DZ at a time to be agreed between us and Colonel Taxis, a member of the Israel Delegation being present at this transfer.
7. Water would be supplied to the villagers from a tap in the pipe to Govrim, from Enei Zfat, or by water tanks to be arranged for by Mr. Palmon. The villagers would not be allowed to take water from the Jordan.
8. Arrangements for food would be made with the UNWRA office in Israel, the returnees would take bread with them for 24 hours and, to avoid any possible hitch, a truck of flour will be arranged for by Mr. Palmon. The latter will arrange for the opening of a "shop" in the village to supply its needs, by the appropriate Ministry. Mr. Palmon would appoint an Israel civilian, not from the DZ, to be responsible for Arab affairs throughout the DZ.
9. The treatment of those Arabs who remain in Shaab must now be solely good with a view to influencing those who return to the DZ to ask to be sent back to Shaab. Mr. Palmon will delegate the responsibility for this to one particular individual or organisation (civilian).
10. Those who return to the DZ, though restricted in their movements, would be treated in a friendly and tolerant way. After a certain period they would be encouraged to ask to be transferred to Transjordan or back to Shaab.
11. The police would prohibit all contact between the returned villagers and Syria. They would do so as far as possible not on their lands on which they should enjoy the maximum freedom of movement.
12. Three of the returning Arabs would be appointed as local Arab police to be paid and equipped on the same basis as the Arab local police in the Little Triangle.

M.E. From about 640 interrogated, 225 expressed their desire to return to the DZ. The Mukhtar was in prison during the interrogation, where he was visited by the UN. The advice of our representatives, who were in