

C O P Y

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION

41/12

Jerusalem, 24 September 1953

Sir,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's message of 23 September 1953 which was received at my headquarters at 2100 hours zebra same date. The staff duty officer after repeated efforts was unable to contact me and in turn when he tried to inform you that the message would be delivered early this morning, he was unable to do so.

If it had been possible for me to have received your request for postponing the release of my decision shortly after the delivery of my letter to your office, the delivery of the information copy to the Syrian Government could have been delayed. However since your message was not received at my headquarters until 2100 hours zebra, the Syrian Government had already received my decision.

I wish to state that Your Excellency's suggestion for another conference prior to my reaching any conclusions was taken into consideration. However, Colonel Shalev's letter of 22 September 1953, which was received late in the evening of the same day, together with your statements made on the same morning, clearly expressed Israel's views in this matter. Furthermore, in my opinion, it would not be correct for me to confer with one government regarding my conclusions without conferring with the other and since both parties had clearly stated their views regarding this project, I deemed further consultations unnecessary.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major General Vagn Bannike
Chief of StaffHis Excellency Mr. Moshe Sharett,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Government of Israel.