

Sherbok, 7/26/48 Tel Aviv

1. Attitude toward Mediation: will continue to cooperate; no ques. / confidence involved

2. Demil. of Terms: will give reply Wed. Situation has changed, Jews now have a Road bridge to Jerus. & are thinking in terms / possibility of Jewish Jerus. being included in Jewish state. Intending soon to regularize application of Israel law to Jerus.

3. Arab refugees: no ques. / their return while war is on; re eventual return the question

is open; depends on eventual
peace settlement. Arab refugees
a major feature of the war situation
& whole ques. of prospective peace
settlements. Admits that Palestinian
Arabs are main victims of the
war which is between Israel
& Arab states rather than with
Palest. Arabs.

Unthinkable that Israel shd.
permit return to Haifa & Jaffa of
thousands of Arabs while war is still
on. Truce is only a phase of the
war. In many cases they have
nothing to return to - huge sums
must have to be spent; Israel
cannot accept that respon. They

who constitute a great Fifth Column
in Israel. Cataclysmic changes
have taken place; if they had stayed
Israel would have had to put up with
them. Ques. also linked up with
treatment + condition of Jews in
Arab countries.

Welf. att. 2 parts - noques.
{ of return while state of war
continues; their eventual
return is an open ques. tied
up with whole settlement

- in numerous cases the
former Arab papers no longer
exist owing to war conditions.

- do not deny that Arabs have
homes, land, proprietary rights

here; maybe some will
return, maybe charge numbers;
Proo. Cant. is not saying no
to anything.

Arabs who have remained
are submissive & cause no great
trouble. But Jewish reaction
would be strong against any
policy permitting return of Arabs.
No differentiation as between
return of men of mil. age & others.

Conversion of truce into an armistice —

a greater no-man-land —

Shertok's offhand reaction —
armistice wd. be a phase of peace.
Distinctive feature of an armistice

no disposition to negotiate
peace with Israel - irrespective
of whatever fantastic demands
they might make. An armistice
without this, requiring evac.
& removal of troops + substitution of
inter. control, would be diff. for
Jews to accept. Prior
cond. would be willingness of
Arabs to discuss peace with
Jews.

Haifa road — shd be open
this p.m. or tomorrow

Blackout in Haifa — no prob.
by tomorrow night.

Haifa harbours — will be rectified.

Sherbok brings up:

Arab interception of
supplies bound for Pal. at
Suez + Said, — any goods
of non-mil. char.
