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UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION  
Communication Received from Mr. Fletcher-Cooke of  
the United Kingdom delegation in response to the  
telegram from the Jewish Community Council, Haifa.

The following communication, with reference to the allegations contained in the telegraphic message to the Chairman by the Jewish Community Council, Haifa, has been received from Mr. Fletcher-Cooke of the United Kingdom Delegation.

COPY/ks  
18 February 1948

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
Empire State Building  
New York 1, N. Y.

17th February, 1948.

Dear Bunche,

May I refer you to your official letter of 10th February in which you enclosed a copy of a telegraphic message to the Chairman of the Commission from the Jewish Community Council of Haifa, alleging the murder of Jewish passengers in buses passing an Arab legion Camp.

As I believe I have mentioned to you, I sent a copy of this telegraphic message to Jerusalem and I have now received the following comments from the Government of Palestine.

The facts of the incident which took place on 3rd February are as follows. A Convoy of Jewish buses was passing an Arab Legion Camp at Neve Sha Anan. Somebody in one of the convoy vehicles opened fire on the Arab Legion sentry at the main gate of the Camp. The latter and several members of the Arab Legion Guard returned the fire causing the buses to halt and one of them to run off the road. The passengers alighted and some took cover while others made their way to Neve Sha Anan and Tel Annal. A doctor from the Camp assisted by the Arab Legion Guards rendered first aid, to the wounded.

During subsequent investigations, an expended bullet of Thompson submachine gun calibre was found near the sentry's box and the marks of two bullets were also found in the wall of the building directly, behind the sentry's box. These two bullets had evidently passed over the sentry's head from the direction, of the roadway. The total casualties in this incident amounted to two Jews killed and fifteen injured. There were no Arab Legion casualties.

The allegation that the Arab Legion opened fire without provocation is therefore not supported by the facts.

I take this opportunity of enclosing the Incident Reports, of the 14th and 15th February.

I also enclose a Casualty Report for the week ending 15th February.

Yours sincerely,  
J. Fletcher-Cooke (signed)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunch.,  
Principal Secretary to the United Nations  
Commission on Palestine,  
United Nations,  
Lake Success.

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