

59/16.

RESTRICTED
16 February 1948.

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION

Cable Received on 16 February from the
Jewish Agency for Palestine Concerning Arab
Armed Forces

The following cable from Mr. Ben Gurion has been
sent to the Commission by Mr. Aubrey Eban of the Jewish
Agency for Palestine.

"13 FEBRUARY

ACCORDING BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION, DIRECT OBSERVATIONS AND INFERENCE FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF FACTS, ENTIRE INITIATIVE AND DIRECTION OF FORCES OF WAR AGAINST US HAS PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF ARMED FORCES OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHO ARE CONTINUALLY SENDING NUMEROUS GROUPS ACROSS NORTHERN AND EASTERN FRONTIERS INCLUDING TRANSJORDAN. THESE ARE WELL EQUIPPED AND WELL SUPPLIED FIGHTING CONTINGENTS UNDER COMMAND OF WELL EDUCATED ARAB OFFICERS ASSISTED BY EUROPEANS, MAINLY GERMAN EXPERTS. PRACTICALLY NO ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE BY PALESTINE GOVERNMENT OR BRITISH ARMY TO PREVENT THEIR ENTRY IN CONCENTRATION IN IMPORTANT STRATEGIC CENTERS. WE EXPECT SERIOUS ATTACKS ALTHOUGH NATURALLY NO DETAILED INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ABOUT TARGETS AND WAYS OF ATTACK. JAFFA HAD TRIED THROUGH BRITISH INTERMEDIARIES TO SECURE PEACE AGREEMENT WITH TEL AVIV. NOW JAFFA IS UNDER ARAB COMMANDER FROM ABROAD WHO STOPPED PEACE TALKS WHEN COMMANDER TOLD BY MAYOR OF JAFFA THAT WITHOUT AGREEMENT JAFFA WILL BE ENTIRELY DESTROYED HE ANSWERED, 'I DO NOT MIND DESTRUCTION OF JAFFA IF WE SECURE DESTRUCTION OF TEL AVIV.' TIME IS MOST DECISIVE FACTOR. URGE IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL FORCE OR AT LEAST DESPATCH EQUIPMENT BY UN OR US.

CABLE

BENGURION