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2 April 1948

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION

Communication Received from our Special Representative in London concerning the Food Problem

The following cablegram has been received from Mr. Henson, our special representative in London, concerning progress of his conferences with the United Kingdom Government authorities relative to the food problem in Palestine:

PROBERTMAN DISCUSSED FOOD PROBLEM WITH GUTCH REACTION LATEST CABLE ABOUT AS YOU SUGGEST WHILE FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS DELAYED AM URGING THAT WHEAT FLOUR AND FATS AND OILS BE MOVED TO NEARBY BRITISH PORT FOR PROMPT DELIVERY WHEN FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS SETTLED DELAY IS DANGEROUS PROSPECTS ARAB CORPORATION ANALOGOUS TO PROPOSED JEWISH CORPORATION ARE NOT GOOD MANY BELIEVE ARAB AREAS BEST SERVED THROUGH NEIGHBOURING ARAB COUNTRIES JEWISH AREAS THROUGH PROPOSED JEWISH CORPORATION JERUSALEM TO BE HANDLED SEPARATELY AS SUGGESTED IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFUSION SUGGEST PALESTINE COMMISSION REQUEST BRITISH TO HAVE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE ICEF COOPERATE WITH DESIGNATED AGENT OF COMMISSION IN PRESENTING PALESTINE REQUIREMENTS NOW FOR FLOUR AND RICE FOR JULY AND AUGUST AND FOR NITROGENOUS FERTILIZERS FOR NINETEEN FORTYEIGHT FORTYNINE SEASON WE ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT ON QUANTITIES AND THEIR COOPERATION ALONG WITH THAT OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WILL ASSURE EQUITABLE CONSIDERATION PALESTINE NEEDS BELIEVE I CAN SERVE BEST BY RETURNING APRIL SEVEN TO WASHINGTON THE FOOD AND FERTILIZER WORK CAN BE COMPLETED BY CABLE THROUGH CONTACTS MADE HERE. WILL BE AVAILABLE AS DESIRED TO COMPLETE WORK WHEN FINANCE SETTLED OR TO HANDLE PALESTINE PROBLEMS ICEF AS THEIR COMMITTEES MEET FOR THE TIME BEING. IF AGREEABLE MY RETURN FORWARD INSTRUCTIONS FOR MISS WOOD. HENSON