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Lake Success, New York
16 February 1948

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. TRAFFORD SMITH
CONCERNING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS OFF HAIFA

The following communication has been received from Mr. Trafford Smith of the United Kingdom Delegation:

"No. 33/25/48

12th February, 1948

My Dear Bunche,

You may like to know that we have just received official confirmation of the report in this morning's press of the arrival of a shipload of illegal immigrants off Haifa and their transfer to Cyprus.

The High Commissioner's report states that at 1300 hours on February 11th, a ship named "Jerusalem the Besieged" was brought by the Royal Navy to Haifa with 680 Jewish illegal immigrants on board. Of these, one man and one woman were taken to hospital in Palestine and 404 men, 213 women and 61 children were transferred to the "Ocean Vigour", on which they left for Cyprus. The operation was completed by 1605 hours and there were no untoward incidents.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

(Trafford Smith)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission for Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success, New York.