

UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

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NOTE ON A PRIVATE MEETING OF THE
CONCILIATION COMMISSION

held in Lausanne on Tuesday,
2 August 1949

Present: Mr. Porter (U.S.A.) - Chairman
Mr. de Boisanger (France)
Mr. Yalcin (Turkey)
Dr. Azcárate - Principal Secretary

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1. Mr. de BOISANGER raised the question of the charge of explosives found in a tunnel near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem. He communicated to the Commission the information received by the French Government on the subject, and suggested that the Commission might ask its Deputy Principal Secretary, Mr. Barnes, who was leaving that afternoon for Jerusalem, to indicate to General Riley that the Commission had been deeply impressed by the incident and desired to receive a complete report on the subject.

Mr. YALCIN supported Mr. de Boisanger's suggestion. He recalled that similar cases had already occurred, and stressed the necessity of approaching the Israeli authorities with firmness in order to obtain assurances that such incidents would not be repeated.

The PRINCIPAL SECRETARY informed the Commission of a visit he had received from Mr. Arazi, during which the latter had read to him a telegram received by the Israeli delegation from Mr. Sharett on the subject. In that telegram Mr. Sharett explained that the Government of Israel was ready, as always, to take into consideration the directives given it by United Nations experts and to follow them faithfully. He explained that the charge of explosives had been inspected by two officers who were demolition experts, an American and a Frenchman, and that they had agreed that the charge could be

exploded without damage to the Holy Sepulchre. A third expert, of Belgain nationality, would make the same inspection without delay.

The CHAIRMAN said he had received similar information and that he considered it quite probable that the charge would already have been exploded by the time Mr. Barnes arrived in Jerusalem. Nevertheless, the Commission requested Mr. Barnes to make a complete report on the question as early as possible.

2. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the presence of the Technical Committee in Lausanne would be desirable in view of the probable development of negotiations on the subject of the refugees. He proposed that Mr. Barnes should communicate to the Technical Committee in Jerusalem the Commission's desire that the Committee should return to Lausanne and draft its report as quickly as possible, once the necessary field work had been completed.

The Commission approved the Chairman's suggestion.

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