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UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION
Communication from the United Kingdom Delegation
concerning a Special Emergency Security Force
for Jerusalem

The following communication, concerning the Commission's request to send an official to Palestine for the purpose of preliminary organization and recruitment of British personnel for a Special Emergency Security Force for Jerusalem, has been received from Mr. J. Fletcher-Cooke of the United Kingdom Delegation.

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

12th April 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Bunche,

You will remember that last week you asked us to ascertain from His Majesty's Government whether they would agree to the Commission's proposal to send an official to Palestine to proceed with the preliminary organization and recruitment of British personnel for a Special Emergency Security Force for Jerusalem to be formed on a volunteer basis.

2. His Majesty's Government have now agreed to this proposal on the understanding that the proposed force is not that to be appointed by the Governor under the Jerusalem Statute, but is a purely ad hoc emergency force to be formed and paid for by the Commission to maintain security in Jerusalem during the interim period after the 15th May. It is understood that the Commission fully appreciate that there can be no question of the proposed force coming into being before the 15th May.

3. I may add, for the information of the Commission, that steps are being taken by the Government of Palestine to ascertain the numbers and ranks of British police who would volunteer for services with this special force on terms not less favorable than their existing terms of service. This information will take a week or two to collect, particularly in view of the difficulties of communication in Palestine. The Government of Palestine have pointed out that at this late hour a number of police, who would have volunteered some time ago, have had to accept other opportunities of employment in the absence of the request which has now been made, so that the numbers presenting themselves as volunteers may be small.

4. The Government of Palestine have added that they will give every possible facility to any representative which the Commission may send to Palestine for this purpose but they point out that they will not be able to assist any such representative to travel around the country which conditions in Palestine will probably preclude.

Yours sincerely,
/s/ J. Fletcher-Cooke

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United
Nations Palestine Commission, United Nations,
Lake Success, N.Y.

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