

U.S. Statement on Palestine in Security Council

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

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pg. 6

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LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., May 17—Following is the text of a statement on the Palestine question made today by Warren R. Austin, United States representative, before the United Nations Security Council:

The Security Council has now adequate information to demonstrate that its earlier efforts to bring an end to the fighting in Palestine have been unsuccessful. Actual fighting now in progress in Palestine, together with statements being made by all parties directly involved, clearly indicate to the United States Government that there is a threat to the peace and breach of the peace within the meaning of Article 39 of the Charter.

We believe, therefore, that the Security Council should find that the situation with respect to Palestine constitutes a threat to the peace and breach of the peace under Article 39.

We believe that the Security Council should issue an order as a provisional measure under Article 40, calling upon all authorities who are in control of armed elements now operating in any part of Palestine to bring about an immediate stand-still in all military operations.

I will read at this point a draft resolution on the Palestine question submitted by the representative of the United States at the 293d meeting of the Security

Council, 17 May, 1948, which is Document S/749:

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Taking into consideration that previous resolutions of the Security Council in respect to Palestine have not been complied with and that military operations are taking place in Palestine.

DETERMINES that the situation in Palestine constituted a threat to the peace and a breach of the peace within the meaning of Article 39 of the Charter;

ORDERS all governments and authorities to cease and desist from any hostile military action and to that end issue a cease-fire and stand-fast order to their military and paramilitary forces to become effective within thirty-six hours after the adoption of this resolution;

DIRECTS the truce commission established by the Security Council by its resolution of 23 April, 1948 to report to the Security Council on the compliance with these orders.

Mr. President, in the meantime, in order to permit the Security Council truce commission to proceed with maximum speed, the Security Council should ascertain which Arab authorities are responsible for Arab aspects of the situation in Palestine and insure that such Arab authorities have designated representatives to deal with the Security Council truce commission.

The United States considers additional information on Pal-

estine to be desirable. The Council may wish to put to the principal parties a number of questions. Some of these questions will be familiar to you, but it seems necessary to bring together in compact form all of the relative facts that can be obtained for the further information of the Security Council and to obtain these facts before a decision is made. I am submitting the type of questions that we think should be propounded to all of the parties interested in the following substance, namely:

1. *To Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Trans-Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon:*

a. Are elements of your armed forces or irregular forces sponsored by your Government now operating in Palestine?

b. If so, where are such forces now located, under what command are they now operating and what are their military objectives?

c. On what basis is it claimed that such forces are entitled to enter Palestine and conduct operations there?

d. Who is now responsible for the exercise of political functions in the Arab areas of Palestine?

e. Is such authority now negotiating with Jewish authorities on a political settlement in Palestine?

f. Have the Arab governments entered into any agreements among themselves with respect to Palestine?

g. If so, what are the terms of the agreements?

2. *Questions to the Arab Higher Committee.*

a. Is the Arab Higher Committee exercising political authority in Arab sections of Palestine?

b. What governmental arrangements have been made to maintain public order and to carry on public services in Arab sections of Palestine?

c. Have the Arabs of Palestine requested assistance from governments outside of Palestine?

d. If so, what governments and for what purpose?

e. Have you named representatives to deal with the Security Council truce commission for the purpose of effecting the truce called for by the Security Council?

3. *Questions to the Provisional Government of Israel:*

a. Over which areas of Palestine do you actually exercise control at the present time?

b. Do you have armed forces operating outside areas claimed by your Jewish state?

c. If so, on what basis do you attempt to justify such operations?

d. Are you negotiating with Arab authorities regarding either a truce or a political settlement in Palestine?

e. Have you named representatives to deal with the Security Council truce commission for the purpose of effecting the truce called for by the Security Council?

f. Will you agree to an immediate and unconditional truce for the city of Jerusalem and the holy places?