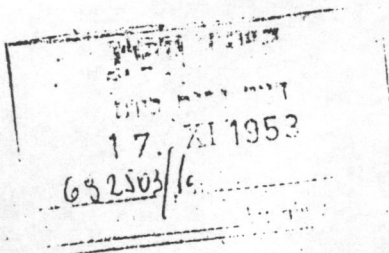


מדינת ישראל

ISRAEL

נציגות ישראל  
באומות המאוחדות  
DELEGATION OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



11 EAST 70TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK  
TRAFALGAR 9-7600

November 5, 1953

To: Mr. Abba S. Eban

From: Y. Tekoah

Enclosed please find copy of an additional letter addressed by General Bennike to the Sar on 20 October 1953.

I have no observations to make regarding the letter's second and third paragraphs which merely polish up the respective arguments set forth in the transcript of the 15 October conversations. I have no comment on the last paragraph.

With regard to the fourth paragraph, the statement quoted by me on 15 October appears in Dr. Bunche's letter to the Sar, a copy of which was transmitted to you with a note from Mrs. Doreen Doughton, of the U.N. Secretariat on 25 June 1949. According to this note the letter was of the 25 June 1949. Dr. Bunche's letter in the file used by me at the aforesaid conversation had the date 26 June 1949, inscribed on it. Mr. Rosenne read it into the record of the Eleventh Meeting of the Israeli-Syrian Armistice negotiations, held on 3 July 1949 as a letter dated 26 June 1949. The discrepancies in the dates may be due to the particular procedures of transmission of communications from the U.N. Headquarters to U.N. representatives in Palestine which existed in 1948-1949. As I have explained elsewhere, the paragraph under consideration does not appear in a similar letter sent by Dr. Bunche to the Syrian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In any event this is another point on which Gen. Bennike and his staff have shown remarkable inefficiency.

cc: ✓ Sar  
Mankal  
Mr. Lourie  
Mr. Kidron  
Mr. Rafael  
Mr. Dayan

J.T.

Jerusalem, 20 October 1953

Sir,

I wish to take this opportunity to call your attention to several errors in the transcript of our conversation of 15 October 1953.

First paragraph, page 1, "you started the work and you are still working on Arab-owned land. If the work now affects Arab-owned land it will do so in the future. And the work will more and more change the value of the demilitarized zone from the military point of view - separating the two parties. And I fear it is necessary for me to repeat my request to stop the work until an agreement is reached", should read: "You started the work on Arab-owned land and you are still working on Arab-owned land. The work affects Arab-owned land and will do so in the future. The work will more and more change the value of the demilitarized zone from a military point of view for separating the two parties, Syria and Israel. I therefore find it necessary to repeat my request to stop work until an agreement is reached."

Page 3, General Bennike's statement: "About the military question, there are many things to say, many details to mention. If you want to attack, it is always good to have your front protected and attack from the flank, it is good to have an obstacle in front of you while you attack from the side." This should read: "About the military situation, there are many things to say, many details to mention. If you want to attack, it is always good to have your flank protected, for example, if you want to attack north of the channel, of you could in peace time build bridges over the channel and clear the mountains of rocks on your side, and it would be easier to cross the dry river bed, than a river with water."

Reference Mr. Tekoa's statement, page 10, wherein he refers to Dr. Bunche's letter of 26 June 1949: "...From the beginning of these negotiations our greatest difficulty has been to meet Israel's unqualified demand that Syrian forces be withdrawn from Palestine. We have now, with very great effort, persuaded the Syrians to agree to this. I trust that this will not be undone by legalistic demands about broad principles of sovereignty and administration which in any case would be worked out satisfactorily in the practical operation of the scheme..." I am sorry to state that after having checked Dr. Bunche's letter of 26 June 1949, I am unable to find the extract Mr. Tekoa quoted.

Finally, as to the passage referred to in the footnote on page 5, I have no recollection of the last sentence, "It is not my job to decide who is to blame for there being no negotiations" and it therefore should be deleted.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) Major General Vagn Bennike  
Chief of Staff

His Excellency Mr. Moshe Sharett,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Government of Israel.