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TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION

Jerusalem, 8 September 1953.

Dear Colonel Shalev,

Colonel Tilletson reports that work was started at MR 208.8-267.6 on 2 September on a new irrigation project, the details of which were not communicated to him until 7 September in a conversation held between 0900Z and 1400Z. In such circumstances he has not been in a position to discharge his responsibilities under Article 5 of the Armistice Agreement and Dr. Bunche's authoritative comment accepted by both Parties to the Armistice Agreement. Colonel Tilletson was definitely assured yesterday by Captain Reichmann in the presence of Colonel Shalev that the project did not include the building of a dam which would in particular flood the island approximately at MR 208.8-267.5. I am, however, informed that work with a view to damming the western channel of the Jordan has started this morning, with the consequence that the island, which is, I understand, Arab-owned, will be flooded.

I urge that working on the proposed dam be stopped and that I, as Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission, receive full information on the proposed new project.

Major General Vagn Bennike
Chief of Staff

Colonel Aryeh Shalev,
G.S.O. i/c Israeli Delegations
to the Mixed Armistice Commissions,
Israel Defence Forces,
Tel Aviv, Israel.

Copy to Dr. Walter Eytan,
Director-General,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

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Yours sincerely,

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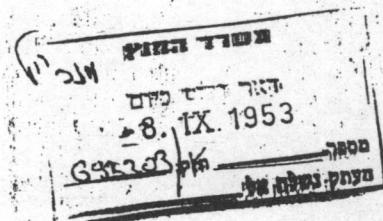
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