

LETTER FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF ISRAEL DATED 11 JULY 1948 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION
OF 29 NOVEMBER AND ITS DECISION ADOPTED AT THE
320TH MEETING ON 15 JUNE 1948

1. On 3 and 5 July 1948, the United Nations Mediator addressed a communication (S/865) to the Provisional Government of Israel and the Governments of the Arab States. In the course of that communication, the Mediator wrote:

"The expiration of the date of the truce on 9 July is now imminent. The parties to the truce must answer the question whether....they will again resort to armed conflict."

The Provisional Government of Israel expressed its readiness to agree to a further prolongation of the truce agreement (S/872, 8 July). The Arab States informed the Mediator on 9 July that they find it:

"imperative not to agree to a prolongation of the truce under present conditions and to take all measures necessary to bring these conditions to an end." (S/876)

2. In his cablegram of 5 July addressed to both parties (S/865), the Mediator wrote:

"There can be little doubt that a decision to resume fighting in Palestine will be universally condemned and that the party or parties to take such a decision will be assuming a responsibility which will be viewed by the world with the utmost gravity."

Despite this appeal, and the resolution of the Security Council proposed by the United Kingdom on 6 July 1948 (S/867), the Arab States have rejected the prolongation of the truce, resumed fighting, and thereby assumed the responsibility to which the Mediator referred.

3. It is therefore clear to the Provisional Government of Israel that the truce initiated by the Security Council's resolution of 29 May 1948 has expired, and has not been prolonged. The Provisional Government of Israel therefore regards itself as entirely free from all its conditions and terms.

4. In this connection, may I refer to the proceedings of the Security Council at its 320th meeting on 15 June 1948, when it was decided to:

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"call to the attention of Member States as well as to that of non-members, if possible, paragraph 6 of the Truce Proposals and to request them to extend co-operation and assistance to the United Nations Mediator in the implementation of the provisions of the truce proposals."

The Provisional Government of Israel submits that it is now necessary for the Secretary-General to inform all Governments addressed by the Council on 15 June that the period of the Truce agreement has expired and has not been renewed, with the result that the Security Council's request to them to assist in implementing the provisions of the truce proposals is no longer in force.

(Signed). Aubrey S. Eban
Representative of the Provisional
Government of Israel to the
United Nations

