Text of Arab Reply to U. N. Truce Proposal
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LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., June 2 —Following is the text of a cablegram from the Egyptian Foreign Minister giving the reply of the Arab League to the cease-fire resolution adopted by the Security Council last Saturday:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's telegram of 29 May 1948 in which you kindly give me the text of the resolution adopted on that day by the Security Council with a view to ceasing hostilities in Palestine for a period of four weeks.

The Governments of the states members of the Arab League, to which you communicated the said resolution, have considered it and have taken the following decision which they have instructed me to transmit to you. I hereby transmit the following communication to you from the Arab League:

The Governments of the Arab states stated in their replies to the first invitation to the same effect that the Security Council addressed to them on 22 May last that they greatly wished peace to be re-established in Palestine and both the Arab and Jewish people of that country to live side by side in perfect harmony and mutual understanding.

The Arab states also gave the reasons why they would not accept that invitation and drew attention to the guarantees without which the suspension of the hostilities taking place in Palestine would only constitute a temporary respite giving rise to disorder on a greater scale and more serious acts of terrorism. It is pleasant to note that the Security Council has taken these considerations into account.

A Means Toward Solution

The suspension of hostilities is merely a means of finding the just solution of the Palestine problem which would be so welcome.

The Arab states also note with satisfaction that the Security Council's resolution instructs the United Nations Mediator to make contact with all parties as soon as the cease-fire is in force with a view to carrying out his functions as determined by the General Assembly in its resolution of 14 May last. One of the most important of these functions is that of reaching a peaceful and just solution of the problem.

The Governments of the Arab States are confident that the United Nations Mediator and the members of the Truce Commission appointed by the Security Council on 23 April, 1948 will realize that any solution which does not insure political unity for Palestine nor respect the will of the majority of the population of that country will not have the least chance of success.

There is not the least doubt that it will have exactly the opposite effect from that for which the suspension of hostilities was resolved; it will open the gates of Palestine, at the present time controlled by the Zionists, to receive hordes of Jewish immigrants of military age who are waiting at the ports of Europe and America for the first chance to go to Palestine in large numbers.

Most of these immigrants have received a thorough combatant training, and their entry into Palestine will have the effect of reinforcing the bands of Zionist terrorists, which constitutes a serious threat to the Arabs of Palestine and to the security of the Middle Eastern Arab countries.

It is inconceivable that the Security Council would have intended to place the Zionists in a position to profit by the period of cessation of hostilities in order to receive a reinforcement of men who, although they come to Palestine as immigrants, are in reality nothing but trained fighters and thus come within the definition of the second paragraph of the Security Council resolution prohibiting the introduction of combatant personnel into Palestine during the period of armistice.

For "Careful Supervision"

Finally, the Governments of the Arab States consider it necessary that a body should be set up under all the necessary safeguards, charged with the most careful supervision of the provisions and conditions of the Security Council resolution on the cessation of hostilities and capable of performing this delicate function.

The Governments of the Arab States consider that in this regard the Security Council resolution does not give them full assurance that the other party will respect the provisions and conditions of the armistice. Therefore, as members of a regional organization responsible for maintaining security in their zone, they are bound to collaborate wholeheartedly with the United Nations Mediator and the members of the Truce Commission for Palestine in order to supervise the carrying out of the aforesaid provisions and conditions.

In the light of the above explanations the Arab States, which are anxious to see peace re-established in Palestine and the way prepared for a just and fair solution of the Palestine problem, accept the Security Council's invitation to cease fire for a period of four weeks from the date to be determined for this purpose.

In accepting this invitation, in spite of the obstacles with which all the attempts hitherto made to solve the Palestine problem justly and fairly have been confronted owing to the systematically obstructive attitude taken up by the Zionists, the Arab States are proving their sincere wish to collaborate with the United Nations in achieving such a solution at a moment when their armies which have entered Palestine have the situation in hand. I have the honor to be, etc.

AHMED MOHAMMED KHASHABA PASHA,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt.

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