

RESTRICTED
UK/ 120
22 April 1948

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION

Communication Received from United Kingdom
Delegation Concerning Position in Haifa

The following communication, containing information on the situation in Haifa, has been received from Mr. Fletcher-Cooke of the United Kingdom Delegation.

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
Empire State Building, New York 1 N.Y.

URGENT

22nd April, 1948

My dear Bunche,

The Commission will no doubt wish to have the latest information available here about the position in Haifa.

2. Reports, which are subject to confirmation, have been received from Jerusalem to the effect that the situation in Haifa is as follows: -

(1) There has been heavy continuous fighting in Haifa Town since midday on the 21st April, after British Forces had withdrawn to positions covering the Port.

(2) Jewish attacks by night on Arab outposts at Burj Hill and Prophets' Steps and on the Telephone Exchange were successful.

(3) Khoury House, the headquarters of the Palestine Railways, was set on fire and was gutted with all records.

(4) Jewish Forces have captured Salameh Building and positions in the Station Street - Burj Hill area and are now closing in on Khamra Square.

(5) The fire in the Port caused by mortaring has been extinguished.

(6) Heavy firing continues with mortaring of the Suq (market) area, which is reported deserted.

(7) Arabs are evacuating in large numbers by sea to Acre.

(8) Total casualties are believed to be heavy, including one British Constable wounded.

(9) British Police at the Haifa lock-up are being evacuated and the prisoners released.

(10) Military authorities are helping in the evacuation with landing-craft.

3. The above Report is dated 9.40 a.m. Palestine Time, 22nd April,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the
United Nations Commission on Palestine
Lake Success, New York.

John Fletcher-Cooke (signed)