

75156/157/1

12

SECRET

see Amended copy

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel  
No. 4933

D. 2.33 p.m. 3rd August, 1946

R. 9.10 p.m. 3rd August, 1946

3rd August, 1946

u u u u u

RE U  
- 8 AUG 1946  
G. U. I.

IMMEDIATE

" Your telegrams 7568 and 7569.

I fear that statement in the House on General Barker's order falls short of what we need enough to meet strong criticism here.

2. Washington Post editorial, for example, says that Mr. Morrison's disavowal of the "actual terms" of the non-fraternisation order will not repair the damage that has been done to British administration. It shows Colonial-militarist policy at its worst and smacked of a Goering model. Blame for the outrage at the King David Hotel is put on the whole of the people of Palestine, if not the entire Jewish race. The whole farrago, with its sneers and its intimidation, was written in bile and malice and was the work of a weak rather than a strong man. Yet the British Government still stands by this theory of mass responsibility and the High Commissioner is not rebuked for upholding it. The measures taken will only create more terrorists and alienate the Jews of the world who gave unstintingly of their services in the war to the Allied cause. "P.M." takes much the same line saying that London's war against the Palestine Jews has thus entered the interesting stage where the British assume their customary tone of lofty morality and pose of injured innocence. The outrage is to be greatly condemned but to put the blame for the violence of a group of embittered young men on the whole Jewish community is to misunderstand the Palestine situation. The ideas represented by the General Barkers' and their feudal friends should themselves be treated with "contempt and loathing". Similar opinions are expressed elsewhere and in considerable correspondence with this Embassy.

3. Implicit in much of this comment, which in some instances links General Barker's remarks to Mr. Bevin's words about Jews not being wanted in New York, is the idea that the British Government is really anti-semitic. This point is not covered in Mr. Morrison's statement and I would urge strongly that an early opportunity be taken to remind the world that His Majesty's Government are traditionally the friend of the Jewish people, that the British contribution to their welfare at home,

in Palestine .....

in Palestine and abroad has been unmatched, that the British people have been first in the fight against anti-semitism and that His Majesty's Government are most anxious to see the Jews take their place happily in a Palestinian State. While it is true that responsibility for outrages is not confined to the terrorist organisations, I think it should be made clear that we have not forgotten the great services of the Jews during the war and that we do realise that the great majority throughout the world do not approve of these tactics.

4. A statement on these lines would be a great help here.

O.T.P.

# OUTWARD TELEGRAM

SECRET

E 7324/4/31

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

NO. 7569.

D. 4.55 a.m. 2nd August, 1946.

1st August, 1946.

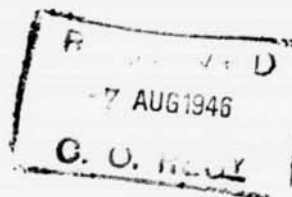
v v v

1) My immediately preceding telegram.

Following is text of statement.

The House will expect me to say a word about the letter which, according to newspaper reports, General Barker, the military commander in Palestine, sent to his officers forbidding British soldiers from relationships of a social character with Jews, and stating that any association in the way of duty should be as brief as possible, and kept to the business at hand. First, let me say that though the Government are satisfied that the instructions given by the Commander were justified in the present disturbed state of the country, at the same time, making all allowances for the provocation to which our Forces are exposed, and recognising that the letter was written shortly after the outrage at the King David Hotel, the Government feel that they must dissociate themselves from the actual terms in which the letter is couched. The Chief of the Imperial General Staff is dealing with this aspect of the matter, and I am sure that it can be safely left in Field Marshal Montgomery's very competent hands. But the House will, of course, bear in mind the difficult and delicate nature of the operations on which our Forces in Palestine are at present engaged, and I am confident, too, that the House will wish me to say that we fully appreciate how heavy is the strain under which both the Army and the civilian officials have been carrying out their duties, and to express our admiration for the magnificent way in which they have discharged them.

OTF



75156/157/1

100  
Y.P. Harbi  
B.S.

\*AMENDED DISTRIBUTION\* 31st July 1946

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

[CYPHER]

\*CABINET DISTRIBUTION\*

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel  
No: 4848

D. 8.45.p.m.30th July 1946

30th July 1946

R. 3.0. a.m.31st July 1946

Repeated to Jerusalem

X:X:X:

IMPORTANT

On July 28th the "New York Times" carried alleged textual report of order stated to have been made to the military units in Palestine by General Barker about non-fraternisation with the Jews. The order is said to have contained the remark that this would "punish the Jews in the way the race dislikes as much as any, by striking at their pockets and showing our contempt of them". United States press today reports superior authority is investigating the means by which terms of the order became public.

2. This alleged order is provoking an outburst in Zionist and Left Wing quarters comparable to last year's furore about General Morgan. Please inform me whether reported statement is accurate and whether official investigation is in fact being carried out. I should also welcome urgent guidance for publicity use here.

O.T.P.

Colonial Office.<sup>10</sup>  
(E 7324 / 4 / 31 ) J.M. Martin, Esq.,  
B218

*With the compliments  
of the Under-Secretary of State  
for Foreign Affairs*

Reference:—

~~B203~~  
ms 25

Copies also sent to:—

W.O.

R  
- 6 AUG 1946  
C. O.

Foreign Office,  
Aug. 1 1946.

SB

[32100—3]

75156/157/1

*all amended copy*

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2.

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel      D. 8. 45 p.m. 30th July, 1946.  
No: 4848                R. 3. 00 a.m. 31st July, 1946.  
30th July, 1946.

Repeated to Jerusalem.

11111

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O.T.P.

Ex (CM(46) 75th Bouds. of 50th July, 1946.

Letter from  
General Barker

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR recalled that he had undertaken to make inquiries about the newspaper report that a letter had been sent by the General Officer Commanding in Palestine to officers forbidding British soldiers from social intercourse with Jews. It had not been possible to get into touch with General Barker himself, who was at present directing the search for terrorists which the Cabinet had authorised, but he understood that the letter had been sent out on his own initiative and had been given a restricted security marking. In his view, the aim of the letter had been fully justified, but he disapproved of some of the expressions used in it.

-3-

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES said that, though he agreed that the terms of the letter were unfortunate, he must stress the fact that the British Forces in Palestine had behaved with admirable impartiality and great forbearance in circumstances that were most trying.

In discussion, there was general agreement that, while the purpose of the instructions had been unexceptionable, some of the expressions used in them were open to serious criticism. There was evidence of considerable feeling among Members of Parliament on this matter and it would undoubtedly be raised during the Palestine Debate. In these circumstances, the best course appeared to be for the Lord President to deal with it in his opening speech on Wednesday.

THE CHIEF OF THE IMPERIAL GENERAL STAFF said that the British Forces in Palestine were conducting very difficult and delicate operations and that it was well established that any information which reached a Jew was liable to be conveyed to the terrorist organisations. In these circumstances, the order given by General Barker seemed to be right. It was impossible in London fully to appreciate the atmosphere of Palestine and it should be realised that it was extremely difficult for the Armed Forces to avoid becoming partisans. He had himself, however, laid great emphasis on the fact that our Forces should remain strictly neutral as between Jew and Arab and he would take up with the General Officer Commanding the question of the terms in which his letter had been drafted. While he saw no objection to the Lord President's stating in the Debate that the Government must disassociate themselves from the terms of the letter, he hoped that it would be made clear that General Barker had the support of the Government.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that it was most important to avoid doing anything which would weaken the position of the military authorities in Palestine. Nevertheless, he felt that it would be necessary to indicate that the Government, while making all allowances for the circumstances in which the letter had been written and while approving the intention of the instructions, felt that they must disassociate themselves from its terms. He would, at the same time, state that the Chief of the Imperial General Staff was dealing with this aspect of the matter and say that it could be safely left in his hands.

The Cabinet -

- (2) Agreed that the Lord President should make a statement on the lines which he proposed in the course of his opening speech in the Palestine Debate.

75156/157/1

8

C. O.

Mr. *Trappin Lark 10/9 atene*  
Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr.

Permt. U.S. of S.  
Parly. U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State.

RECEIVED  
10 SEP 1946  
POL. OFFICE

PRIORITY

No. 826

11/9/46  
Samiy.

DRAFT. *samiy.*

Mes.  
Palkshri

Following is text of Question for oral answer in Parliament on Tuesday 22nd below. Begins

Her most text of PQ, [ ] ]

ends.

2. I am grateful for your observations and suggestions for reply etc.

FURTHER ACTION.

not later than ~~Friday~~ 18th October,

*M. [unclear] [unclear]*  
*B. 118.*  
*H. [unclear]*

*Mr. Nathan*  
*✓ 9/18*  
*development - set of opp. in this*  
*B. 118*

TEXT OF A LETTER ISSUED BY LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR EVELYN BARKER GRADED "RESTRICTED", TO ALL FORMATIONS IN PALESTINE WITH A COPY TO THE PALESTINE POLICE

-----

1. The Jewish population of Palestine cannot be absolved from responsibility for the long series of outrages culminating on Monday with the blowing up of a large part of the Government Offices in the King David Hotel causing grievous loss of life. Without the support, active or passive, of the general Jewish public, terrorist gangs who actually carry out these criminal acts would soon be unearthed and in this measure all Jews in this country are accomplices and bear a share of the guilt.
2. I am determined that they shall suffer punishment and be made aware of the contempt and loathing with which we regard their conduct. We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by the hypocritical sympathy shown by their leaders and representative bodies or by their protest that they are in no way responsible for these acts as they are unable to control the terrorists. I repeat that, if the Jewish public really wished to stop these crimes they could do so by active cooperation with us.
3. Consequently, I have decided that, with effect from the receipt of this letter you will put out of bounds to all ranks all Jewish places of entertainment, cafes, restaurants, shops, and private dwellings. No British soldier is to have any social intercourse with any Jews, and any intercourse in the way of duty should be as brief as possible and kept strictly to the business in hand.
4. I appreciate that these orders will inflict a measure of hardship upon the troops but I am confident that if my reasons are fully explained to them they will understand their propriety and that they will be punishing the Jews in the way the race dislikes as much as any, namely by striking at their pockets and showing our contempt for them.

*R on — 157*

*W. Nathan*  
*2/8.*

*new file 75156/157/1 now*

*opened for this subject.*

*London R 204 2/8.*

Origin 75156/1515/1 M825.

INWARD TELEGRAM

3.

En Clair

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 1st August, - 1946.

R. 1st " " 14.25 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE  
No. 1254

Addressed to S. of S.  
Repeated to Washington, No. 89.

You will be interested in the following  
communique issued at noon today about the operations in Tel  
Aviv.

A total number of 664 suspects in Tel Aviv were  
detained by 10 a.m. this morning. These include a number of  
persons believed to be identical with dangerous terrorists  
wanted by the police for their complicity in acts of murder  
and sabotage. Others are believed to be less important  
saboteurs and political gangsters.

In addition to the seizures mentioned in yesterday's  
communique, a quantity of mortars, mortar shells, 303  
ammunition and locally-manufactured magazines for Luger  
pistols was found in a concealed chamber in the basement of a  
school in Lilienblum Street.

In the vicinity of Allenby Road, a taxi was found  
with bullet holes in it and containing documents in Hebrew.  
These documents are now under examination.

During the two hours which the curfew was lifted  
yesterday in order to allow the inhabitants of Tel Aviv to  
obtain food, a crowd of hostile Jews rushed a barrier held  
by a section of Airborne Troops. One round was fired at the  
demonstrators, wounding a Jew in the leg. Crowd withdrew.  
Curfew will be lifted between 5 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. today.

INWARD TELEGRAM

75156 / 157/1

2

COPY FOR REGISTRATION  
Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 30th July, 1946.

R. 30th " " 12.05 hrs.

30 JUL

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 1246 Secret.

*Gafford Smith*

| Your telegram No. 1348.

General Barker's letter was essentially a security instruction addressed to a limited number of Senior Military Officers. I had not seen it before issue. Although I have no objection to temporary placing out of bounds of Jewish institutions, I have to admit that I find the language of the message unfortunate. I feel that my announcement this morning should do something to allay misapprehension of Government policy.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 29th July, 1946. 19.45 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 1348

Secretary of State for War is asking Gen. Barker for report regarding letter to officers which appears in press here as having been issued by him on Friday forbidding British soldiers to have any social intercourse with Jews and expressing strong views as to responsibility of Jewish community for outrages and their support active or passive of terrorist groups.

Grateful for any comments you may have by first thing tomorrow, Tuesday morning, at latest.

C. O.

Mr. Trafford Smith. 29/7/46.

Mr. J.M. Martin. 29/7

Mr. *alone.*

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

*Recyphered O.T.P.  
Sent.  
K. W. Ho.  
29.7.46*

**DRAFT.**

CYpher TELEGRAM. No. 1348  
(O. T. P.)

MOST IMMEDIATE.

HIGHCOMA,

JERUSALEM.

*Gen. Barker*  
Secretary of State for War  
*asking for report from military authorities*  
is enquiring *as regards letter to*  
*regarding letter to* which appears in press here as having  
officers reported to have been issued  
*by him*  
on Friday by General Barker forbidding  
British soldiers to have any social  
intercourse with Jews and expressing  
strong views as to attitude to be  
adopted towards Jews in future.

Grateful for any comments  
you may have by first thing tomorrow,  
Tuesday morning, at latest.

*responsibility of Jewish  
community for  
outrages and their  
support active or passive  
of terrorist  
gangs.*

**FURTHER ACTION.**

RECEIVED

JUL 31 1946

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