

Central Registry (1205-7-6) U.N. Palestine Conciliation-Commission - proposal submitted by
governments on Frontier problems

22 May, 1949

27 May, 1949

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NAME IND.	_____
SUBJ. IND.	_____

27 May 1949.

Dear Mr. Eban:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of 23 May informing me of the proposals which the Israel Government has asked the Conciliation Commission in Lausanne to convey to the Governments of Egypt and Lebanon.

I should like to thank you for keeping me informed regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Trygve Lie,
Secretary-General.

Mr. Aubrey S. Eban,
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations,
11 East 70th Street,
New York 21, N.Y.

מדינת ישראל
ISRAEL

OFFICE OF THE
REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

REF. NO. 1205-7-6
NAME INS. <u>Israel</u>
SUBJ. INS. <u> </u>
MAY 25 1949
11 EAST 70TH STREET NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK
TRAFALGAR 9-7600

23rd May, 1949.

Dear Mr. Lie,

I write to inform you that the Israeli delegation at Lausanne has asked the Conciliation Commission to convey the following important proposals to the Governments of Egypt and Lebanon:-

- (1) That the established international frontier between Lebanon and Palestine be formally accepted as the frontier between Lebanon and Israel.
- (2) That the established international frontier between Egypt and Palestine be formally accepted as the frontier between Egypt and Israel.

The first proposal would formalise the existing armistice position. The second proposal would transfer a small stretch of territory near Gaza to Israel together with the largest concentration of refugees found in any area. Mr. Pickett of the Quaker Organisation estimated their number at 230,000. Without committing myself to this figure, I would emphasise that this proposal would involve a significant measure of repatriation for a great number of refugees, at present closed up hopelessly in a narrow and economically insecure enclave.

In estimating the value of this proposal it should be borne in mind that

- (a) Lebanese and Egyptian representatives have consistently told us that they have no territorial aspirations in Palestine and are solely concerned to assure their own security in their existing frontiers.
- (b) The proposal that Israel should take over this great refugee commitment by receiving this small area contiguous only to Israel and Egypt was originally outlined by Egyptian representatives. Since tactical considerations may prevent Egypt from putting forward the proposal itself, Israel has taken the initiative in this manner.

My Government believes that a crucial stage has been reached in the conciliation effort. We most earnestly hope that the Conciliation

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For ACTION to:
Mrs. Corbin

2.

Commission will commend this proposal to the Governments concerned with the utmost energy and sympathy. In this way we shall break the deadlock and make a simultaneous approach to the solution of frontier and refugee problems.

Yours sincerely,

Aubrey S. Eban

Aubrey S. Eban

Mr. Trygve Lie,
Secretary-General,
United Nations,
Lake Success, N.Y.

AE/RH

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