



UN Secretariat Item Scan - Barcode - Record Title

Page 37

Date 16/05/2006

Time 4:44:17 PM



S-0861-0003-08-00001

Expanded Number **S-0861-0003-08-00001**

Title **Items-in-Peace-keeping operations - Middle East - Ambassador
Ernesto A. Thalmann**

Date Created **11/08/1967**

Record Type **Archival Item**

Container **S-0861-0003: Peace-Keeping Operations Files of the Secretary-General: U Thant: Middle East**

Print Name of Person Submit Image



Signature of Person Submit



11 August 1967
EL/ksn

The Federal Council has agreed to make available to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for a limited period, the services of Ambassador E. Thalmann, Chief of the International Organizations Division of the Political Department.

In its resolution 2254 of 14 July 1967, the United Nations General Assembly requests the Secretary-General, inter alia, to report to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the situation in Jerusalem. Ambassador Thalmann, acting as the personal representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, is entrusted with the preparation of this report.

In acceding to the Secretary-General's request, the Federal Council wishes to demonstrate the desire of Switzerland to contribute to any measure aimed at restoring peace in the Middle East as well as its firm will to co-operate with the United Nations to this end.

To coordinate.
Hans
11/8/67

Ralph

- Ambassador Thalmann received instructions and signed and returned contract.

- Will leave as agreed, i.e. Monday, August 21st, SR 330 (leave Zurich 1 p.m., arrive Tel Aviv 5.35 p.m.).

- Collaborator:

Ambassador Thalmann wishes to have at his side person of confidence who could be present during interviews and discussions, take notes and help, if necessary, in the material organization of the mission.

In view of the difficulties the Secretary-General foresees to obtain agreement by Israel, it might be preferable to call upon a UN civil servant of Swiss nationality. Ambassador Thalmann thinks in the first place of Rémi Gorgé or, if not available, of André Bovay, who is due to arrive in New York on August 21st.

If these two persons cannot be detached, a person of confidence, able to receive Israeli agreement, should be found.

- Until departure, communications through Swiss Observer Office, New York.

- Press Release will be published as enclosed.

Tuesday, Aug. 15th 1967

Recd. from the P. Observer of Switzerland today.

Rays

B
15/8/67

cc Dr. Fuchs

Clarification with regard to mission:

Ambassador Thalmann assumes gathering information means information about conditions prevailing after control taken by Israel authorities in the whole of Jerusalem. Main activity would therefore have to be the examination of situation in Old City, especially status and treatment of arab residents, their property and the situation of the Holy Places.

Does this mean establishing a catalogue of the measures taken and examine the way they are applied?

Does this still correspond to your description of the mission made to me on Tuesday, August 8th, when you said that your representative should have mainly conversations with the population and religious leaders in order to find out their feelings?

From the P. Observer of Switzerland.

Har
16/8/67

1. RELIGIOUS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS:

1. Bishop Najib Qubein
2. Mr. Labib Nasser
3. Dr. Amin Majaj
4. Dr. George Farah
5. Mr. Daoud Telil
6. Mr. Raja Eissa

2. JERUSALEM EXILESE (Document No. S/8110)

1. Mr. Anwar el-Khatib (*Governor of Jerusalem*)
2. Dr. Daoud el-Husseini
3. Mr. Ibrahim Bakr
4. Mr. Muhsen Abu Maizer

For Amb. Thalmann.

*From the Chairman of the Arab Group
(P.R. of the Sudan) and the P.R. of Jordan.*

Copy with Ralph. Pl. file.

*Wear.
16/8/67*

12 August 1967

Dear Ambassador Thalmann,

I am glad to know that you are willing to undertake and that your Government is prepared to make you available for the special ad hoc assignment as my Personal Representative in Jerusalem for the purpose of obtaining information in order to facilitate my report to the Security Council and the General Assembly. The General Assembly, in its resolution of 14 July 1967 (A/RES/2254 (ES-V), in its paragraph 3 "Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the situation and on the implementation of the present resolution." (Copy enclosed). That part of my report relating to the implementation of the resolution will consist of the written reply to my note about the resolution dated 15 July 1967 (see copy enclosed) which the Government of Israel has promised to address to me. Your concern, therefore, will be exclusively with the gathering of information "on the situation" in Jerusalem which I may, in turn, use in my report to the Council and the General Assembly.

I would wish you to gather as much information as you reasonably can within a period of two weeks on the situation in Jerusalem, by which is meant specifically conditions relating to the assumption of control by Israel authorities over the entire city of Jerusalem. Thus, a major part of your attention

His Excellency
Ambassador Ernest A. Thalmann
Chief of the International Organizations
Division of the Political Department
Bern
Switzerland

would be directed to the situation in the Old City of Jerusalem, with specific reference to the status and treatment of Arab residents and their property and the situation of all of the Holy Places in Jerusalem.

Your function, thus, is to obtain information only and involves no responsibility on your part for any negotiations or for the implementation of the General Assembly resolution.

At my request, the Government of Israel has given assurance that it will cooperate with your mission and will give you all necessary facilities and information.

In my view, it is not necessary for you to come to New York before embarking on this assignment. This letter will serve as your terms of reference. I would hope that you would be able to depart for Jerusalem on or about Tuesday, August 15th. You should plan then to devote not more than a fortnight to gathering information, after which you would return to New York to prepare the report you are to submit to me.

I attach herewith two copies of a Special Service Agreement, both signed by me. If you find its terms acceptable, will you kindly sign them, (filling in also the blank space regarding your address), and return one copy to me through Mr. Spinelli's office?

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

U Thant

14 August 1967 C.V. Narasimhan 3800E 512 EOSG 10101-301 CVN/cc

xx

UNATIONS
GENEVA (SWITZERLAND)

CONFIDENTIAL FOR SPINELLI FROM NARASIMHAN. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE WILL BE
ISSUED AT 10.00 a.m. LOCAL TIME TOMORROW YOUR TIME 3.00 p.m. QUOTE UNQUOTE

(Cable Editor, text is attached)

cc: Mr. Lemieux

C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/8121*
14 August 1967

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 3 of resolution 2254 (ES-V) of 14 July 1967, relating to Jerusalem, the General Assembly requested "the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the situation and on the implementation of the present resolution".
2. In order to obtain information on the situation in Jerusalem as a basis for his report to the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has appointed Ambassador Ernesto A. Thalmann of Switzerland as his Personal Representative in Jerusalem for this purpose. Ambassador Thalmann is expected to arrive in Jerusalem on 21 August 1967 and to stay there for approximately two weeks. His mission will be solely to obtain information as a basis for the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council and the General Assembly and will not entail any negotiations in relation to the implementation of the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution.
3. The Secretary-General has received the assurance of the Government of Israel that it will co-operate with Ambassador Thalmann's mission and will give him all necessary facilities and information.
4. The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to express his warm appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for making Ambassador Thalmann available for this appointment at short notice.

* Also issued under the symbol A/6785.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SC/SM/794
15 August 1967

SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
TO REPORT ON SITUATION IN JERUSALEM

The Secretary-General today announced the appointment of Ambassador Ernest A. Thalmann as his Representative in Jerusalem for the purpose of obtaining information in order to facilitate his report to the Security Council and the General Assembly. This is an ad hoc assignment to assist the Secretary-General in carrying out the terms of the resolution A/RES/2254 (ES-V) of 14 July 1967, in which the General Assembly in paragraph 3 "Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the situation and on the implementation of the present resolution."

Ambassador Thalmann, as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative, will gather information on the situation in Jerusalem for use by the Secretary-General in his report to the Council and the General Assembly. Ambassador Thalmann is expected to arrive in Jerusalem on 21 August and to stay there not more than two weeks. His mission will be solely to obtain information and will not entail any negotiations in relation to the implementation of the General Assembly resolution.

The Secretary-General has received the assurance of the Government of Israel that it will co-operate with Ambassador Thalmann's mission and will give him all necessary facilities and information.

Ambassador Thalmann is at present Head of the Division of International Organizations in the Federal Political Department of the Government of Switzerland. He served as Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations from June 1961 to March 1966. He was born on 14 January 1914 in Bellinzona, Ticino, Switzerland. Ambassador Thalmann has served in the Swiss Federal Government since 1945.

(For further biographical details see press release BIO/512, issued today.)

* *** *

Swiss Press Release

Embargo: Tuesday, Aug. 15th 10am NY time

Le Conseil fédéral a accepté de mettre à la disposition du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies U'Thant, pour une période d'une durée limitée, l'Ambassadeur E. Thalmann, Chef de la Division des organisations internationales du Département politique.

Dans sa résolution 2254 du 14 juillet 1967, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies prie le Secrétaire général de faire notamment rapport au Conseil de sécurité et à l'Assemblée générale sur la situation à Jérusalem. L'Ambassadeur Thalmann agissant en tant que représentant personnel du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies recueillera à Jérusalem à l'intention de ce dernier les informations qui constitueront la base de son rapport au Conseil de sécurité et à l'Assemblée générale.

En accédant à la requête du Secrétaire général, le Conseil fédéral entend marquer le désir de la Suisse de contribuer à toute mesure visant à rétablir la paix dans le Moyen-Orient ainsi que sa ferme volonté de collaborer à cet effet avec les Nations Unies.

L'Ambassadeur Thalmann est attendu à Jérusalem le 21 août et y restera environ quinze jours.

From the P. Observer of Switzerland.

Ralph

Har
15/8/67

✓
UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Note No. 3384
15 August 1967

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

The following statement was made by a United Nations spokesman at the daily briefing for the press today:

"The mission to Jerusalem being undertaken by Ambassador Ernesto Thalmann, as announced today, has its origin in a proposal advanced by the Secretary-General because of an obvious need. The resolution of the General Assembly on Jerusalem adopted on 14 July 1967 calls upon the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the situation in Jerusalem as well as on the implementation of the resolution.

"The Secretary-General concluded that a personal representative of the Secretary-General sent to Jerusalem for a short time for the sole purpose of gathering information would be the best means of obtaining independent data.

"The mission now being sent, in conception, procedure, function and duration is exactly the same as defined in the Secretary-General's original proposal. There have been no changes in it and no conditions relating to it as a result of consultations about it."

* *** *

U.N.'s Man in Jerusalem

Ernesto A. Thalmann 16

Special to The New York Times

GENEVA, Aug. 15—An extraordinary capacity for hard work—remarkable even in a country that is noted for her hard-working civil servants—is the distinguishing mark of Dr. Ernesto A. Thalmann, who has now taken on the task of reporting to the United Nations on the situation in Jerusalem. Although Switzerland has refused to join the United Nations, Dr. Thalmann became one of the European experts on the organization during his term as the head of the Swiss observer mission from 1961 to 1966.

Asked today what he did for relaxation when he was not supervising Swiss relations with the United Nations and other international organizations, Dr. Thalmann, who is 53 years old, replied, "Mostly I work."

Some of the best ski slopes in Switzerland are only a few minutes from the Foreign Ministry in Berne, and Dr. Thalmann conceded that he goes out every now and then. "I suppose all Swiss should ski," he said.

Gardens and Reads

Away from the office he spends most of his time in his garden or reading books on international affairs. He is proficient in German, French and English.

Dr. Thalmann was born Jan. 14, 1914, in Ticino, the Italian-speaking canton in southern Switzerland, which accounts for his Italian first name.

His father had moved there from Zurich to set up an artificial-silk factory, but the family moved back to Zurich when Ernesto Thalmann was 6 years old. It was in Zurich that Dr. Thalmann went to high school and the university.

In addition to retaining his knowledge of Italian, Thalmann decided to learn French, and did it so well that when he comes to Geneva on United Nations business, his accent is indistinguishable from that of the residents of this French-speaking region.

Learns English, Too

During Dr. Thalmann's stay in the United States—he was in the Swiss Embassy in Washington for four years before going to New York—he acquired almost as complete a mastery of English as he had of the other languages.

He looks back on his five years at the United Nations as "a tremendous challenge."

His job, he used to say, was the same as that of the newspaper correspondents: to report what was going on.

He had previously been deputy director of the Foreign Ministry news department, and he took advantage of Switzerland's neutral status to develop friendships among all the blocs.

Some of his closest friends were in the United States delegation in those days, he recalls, particularly the late Adlai E. Stevenson, and his



United Nations

*His way to relax
is to work.*

top assistants, Francis T. P. Plimpton and Charles Yost.

Dr. Thalmann's work as a United Nations negotiator continued after his return to Berne, when he took over the Foreign Ministry's division of International Organization Affairs.

An isolationist group in Geneva, which charged that employees of the United Nations and related agencies had caused the city's housing shortage and other problems, had created the impression that Switzerland wanted them all to get out.

As one of the four ranking permanent officials of the ministry, he went to work immediately to improve relations between the federal Government and the United Nations agencies and to educate the Swiss to the importance of keeping the agencies in Geneva.

The federal Government established an observer here to discuss the agencies' problems and has stepped up its efforts to provide them with the buildings needed for their continued expansion.

In Government Work

After taking his doctorate in law Dr. Thalmann worked briefly in the legal department of the Zurich cantonal government, then transferred to the finance department. During World War II, he joined the federal Government's Office of Industry, Arts, Crafts and Labor in Berne.

In addition to his assignments in New York and Washington, he has served in Paris and Prague.

A Roman Catholic, he was married in 1943 to Dr. Paula Degen of Basel, a dentist who continued her practice for some years after their marriage.

They have three children. Anthony, 19, is a student in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, and intends to be a lawyer; Anne-Marie, 16, and George, who was born in Washington in 1959, are both students in schools in Berne.

Service in the Middle East will not be a new experience for Dr. Thalmann. He was stationed in Cairo for a time following the Suez crisis of 1956, when Switzerland represented the interests of the British and French in the United Arab Republic.

17 August 1967

PERSONAL

Dear Ambassador Thalmann,

I write this letter to you as a follow-up to my letter of 12 August, in order to bring to your attention a few points not covered in that earlier communication.

First of all, I wish to point out that the Permanent Representative of Israel here has assured me you will have the full cooperation of his Government in your mission and that you will have full freedom of movement and access in the City of Jerusalem. I interpret this as necessarily meaning that you will have freedom to meet and talk with anyone in the Old City if you consider it helpful to your mission to do so. I interpret this also as meaning that you would have the right in all such meetings and talks to be alone and not to have present any representative of the Government of Israel, civilian or military. I would consider it indispensable to the effective fulfillment of your mission that you should be able to carry on your talks without any such presence. I say this to you only to alert you to a possibility that a "liaison officer" might be assigned to you who might wish to be with you at your meetings, which I hope and, in fact, assume is only remote. I will, however, convey my assumption in this regard to the Permanent Representative of Israel.

You will not, of course, be expected to go into the streets of Jerusalem and conduct interviews; that would be physically hopeless and, in any case, might serve only to create commotion. A more realistic problem is that of talking with ex-Arab officials of Jerusalem, some of whom are still in the Old City, while others have been exiled. You

His Excellency
Ambassador Ernesto A. Thalmann
Chief of the International Organizations
Division of the Political Department
Berne, Switzerland

will, no doubt, wish to talk to the Arab Mayor and other elected officials of the Old City who are, I understand, still resident there although no longer functioning in their official capacities. I would assume that if you request to see them you will be enabled to do so. As to those who have been exiled, such as the former Governor of Jerusalem who, I am told, is confined to the city of Safad, you could ask the appropriate Israel authorities to bring the person or persons concerned to Jerusalem for the interview by you. There are non-official exiles from Jerusalem in Amman and other places in Jordan, but I would think it not essential for you to try to contact them. I think it would be advisable for you to follow the principle that since the General Assembly resolution refers to the situation in Jerusalem you will not be going outside of the City in pursuance of your task.

..... Some of those exiled from Jerusalem are named in document S/8110 which is among the documents which I enclose with this letter for your information.

Among the religious leaders you may wish to see, I mention the following:

Bishop Najib Qubein
Mr. Labib Nasser
Dr. Amin Majaj
Dr. George Farah
Mr. Daoud Telil
Mr. Raja Eissa

In view of the short time at your disposal, made necessary by the obligation which I have to submit a report without much more delay, I do not expect the information you will gather to be in any sense exhaustive. I do hope that you will be able to get some very clear impressions of the situation which now exists in order that I may make a meaningful and objective report to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

U Thant

✓
RCA POSN 31

UNATION 222422 RC66 WH

ZCZC PTV0527 RZ0146 SDZ0146 P031132 222422 WH

URPU HQ CGDE 068

BERN 68 21 1600

INCOMING

INFO COPY

FILE NO.

ACTION

TO

Brucke

ETATPRIORITE

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEWYORK

DEAR MR SECRETARY GENERAL

ON THE POINT OF LEAVING SWITZERLAND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK
YOU FOR THE TRUST YOU HAVE PUT IN ME BY DESIGNATING ME AS
YOUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN JERUSALEM STOP I CAN ASSURE
YOU THAT I WILL ENDEAVOR TO FULFILL MY MISSION TO THE BEST OF MY
ABILITY AND IN A SPIRIT OF TOTAL IMPARTIALITY

THALMANN

A 1118 21.AUG

UNATION 222422