

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The following telegram, dated 30 June 1947, has been received from the Secretary-General.

NLT UNATIONS JERUSALEM PRO HOO

TEXT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE'S REPLY TO BE DATED 30 JUNE IS FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE:

IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER NO 801-14-10/ AWC OF JUNE ENCLOSING A TELEGRAM FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF PALESTINE CONCERNING CERTAIN DEATH SENTENCES PASSED BY THE MILITARY COURT IN JERUSALEM, I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY MY GOVERNMENT TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU THE FOLLOWING: HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM HAVE RECEIVED AND TAKEN NOTE OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE ON THE 22ND JUNE* IN REGARD TO THE THREE DEATH SENTENCES PRONOUNCED BY THE MILITARY COURT IN JERUSALEM ON 16TH JUNE. AS THE COMMITTEE HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED BY THE PALESTINE AUTHORITIES, THE DEATH SENTENCES IN QUESTION HAVE NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING UNDER REGULATIONS 47 AND 48 OF THE PALESTINE DEFENCE (EMERGENCY) REGULATIONS 1945 AND ARE THEREFORE STILL SUB JUDICE. IF THE SENTENCES ARE CONFIRMED BY THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING, IT WILL THEN BE OPEN TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE TO EXERCISE, IF HE THINKS FIT, THE ROYAL PREROGATIVE OF

/PARDON

PARDON DELEGATED TO HIM BY HIS MAJESTY. IT IS THE INVARIABLE PRACTICE OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DISCRETION WHETHER OR NOT TO EXERCISE THIS PREROGATIVE. AS REGARDS THE RESOLUTION ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON 15TH MAY, TO WHICH THE COMMITTEE REFERS, HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT INTERPRET THIS RESOLUTION AS APPLYING TO ACTION CALCULATED TO DISTURB THE PEACE IN PALESTINE. THEY CANNOT ADMIT ITS RELEVANCE TO THE NORMAL PROCESSES OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE THERE. HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAVE INFORMED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PALESTINE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S COMMUNICATION OF 23RD JUNE TO HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND OF THE TERMS OF THEIR REPLY.

TRYGVE LIE SECRETARY-GENERAL