



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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
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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.

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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