

# The United Nations and Palestine : 1947-1951

This thematic exhibit documents efforts between the years 1947 and 1951 of the fledgling United Nations organization to settle the land dispute between the Arab and Jewish populations in the Palestine Mandate.

## Prelude

Following World War I, the Allied Supreme Council met in San Remo, Italy (19-26 April 1920) to address civil administration and defense obligations for Palestine. The 1917 'Balfour Declaration' previously affirmed establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. Governing responsibilities transferred from the Ottoman Empire to Great Britain and Britain then assumed responsibility for the Mandate and the welfare of its inhabitants.



British Mandate Palestine  
Sept. 1923 - May 1948



Lord Balfour (1848-1930)  
Balfour Declaration



Certificate VSPV 4028

League of Nations  
**Overprint Inverted**  
100 printed



The League of Nations was succeeded in 1946 by the United Nations.



United Nations  
Triangle cutout  
denotes 1st printing

## Exhibit Plan

Significant items (1-3 examples reported) have a **gold/red matt**

London Conference	- Failed attempt at Arab & Jewish agreement	Pg 2
Special Session on Palestine	- General Assembly forms Special Committee	Pg 3
Special Committee on Palestine	- Committee gathers data for Reports	Pg 6
Special Committee in Geneva	- Committee in Geneva prepares formal reports	Pg 13
Ad Hoc Committee & G.A. Approval	- Committee debates & chooses Major Report	Pg 17
Palestine Commission & Secretariat	- Monitoring transition to independent states	Pg 20
Arab / Israeli War	- Disagreements lead to Open Conflict	Pg 21
Truce Commission & End of UNSCOP	- Administration of cease-fire, truce & armistice	Pg 22
Evacuation & Independence	- British Leave & Israel Declares Independence	Pg 23
Palestine Mediators	- Count Bernadotte & Ralph Bunche seek peace	Pg 24
Military Observers	- More eyes to monitor for the mediator	Pg 27
Relief for Palestine Refugees	- United Nations aid to Arab refugees	Pg 31
Conciliation Commission for Palestine	- Resolution for ongoing issues & assistance	Pg 35



A London Conference was requested by Clement Atlee, the Prime Minister of Great Britain and Arab and Jewish representatives were invited for discussion. Its purpose was to resolve Palestine Mandate governance and negotiations to end the mandate. As the Arab and Jewish parties could not agree on a plan to keep the mandate as a single nation, the conference failed.



Clement Attlee  
(1883-1967)  
British Prime Minister

Britain then announced on 2 April 1947, it would terminate its jurisdiction due to financial burden, ongoing political unrest and continued escalation of civil violence between the Arab population and Jewish immigrants. The issue became the first test of the fledgling United Nations to promote peace.

A plan for partitioning Palestine before the UNSCOP Major report  
Clement Atlee and President Truman  
Punch Magazine illustration, June 1946



**THE STUMBLING-BLOCK**

“The first thing to do is to get rid of *that*.”





United Nations General Assembly  
Margin inscription

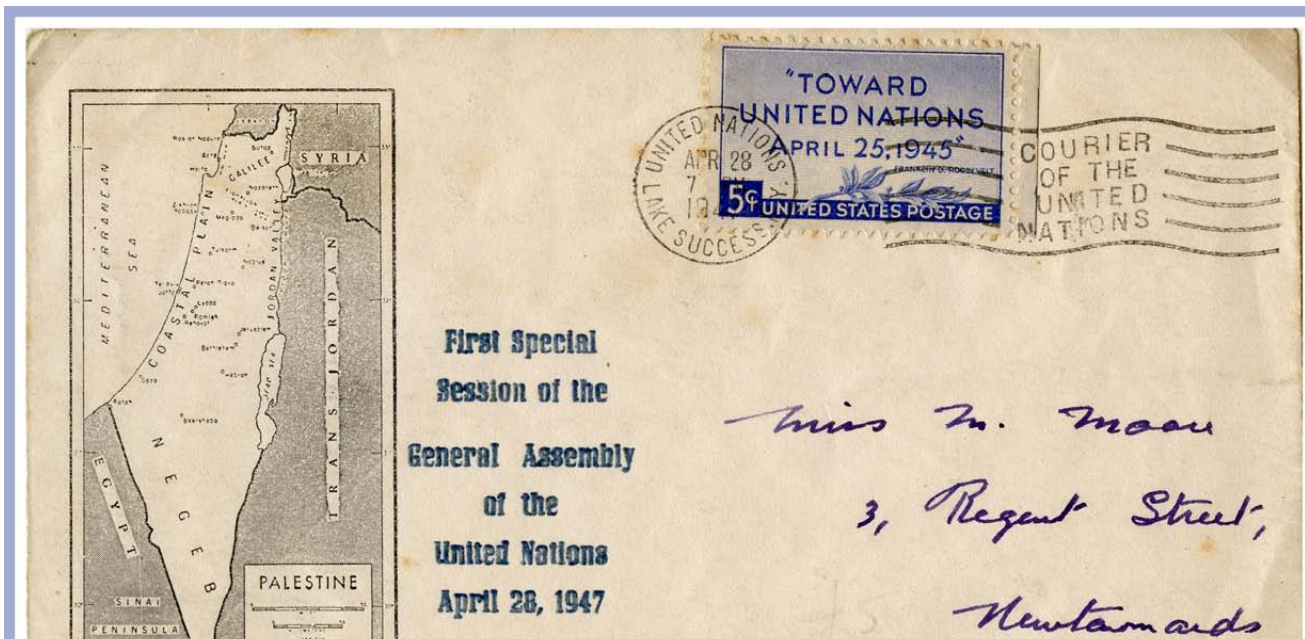
The First U.N. General Assembly *Special Session* was held in Flushing Meadows, N.Y. under Session President Oswaldo Euclides Aranha (1894-1960). Its purpose - to form a committee "*whose duty was to prepare material for consideration in the next regular session of the General Assembly concerning the government of Palestine.*"



Flushing Meadows, N.Y.

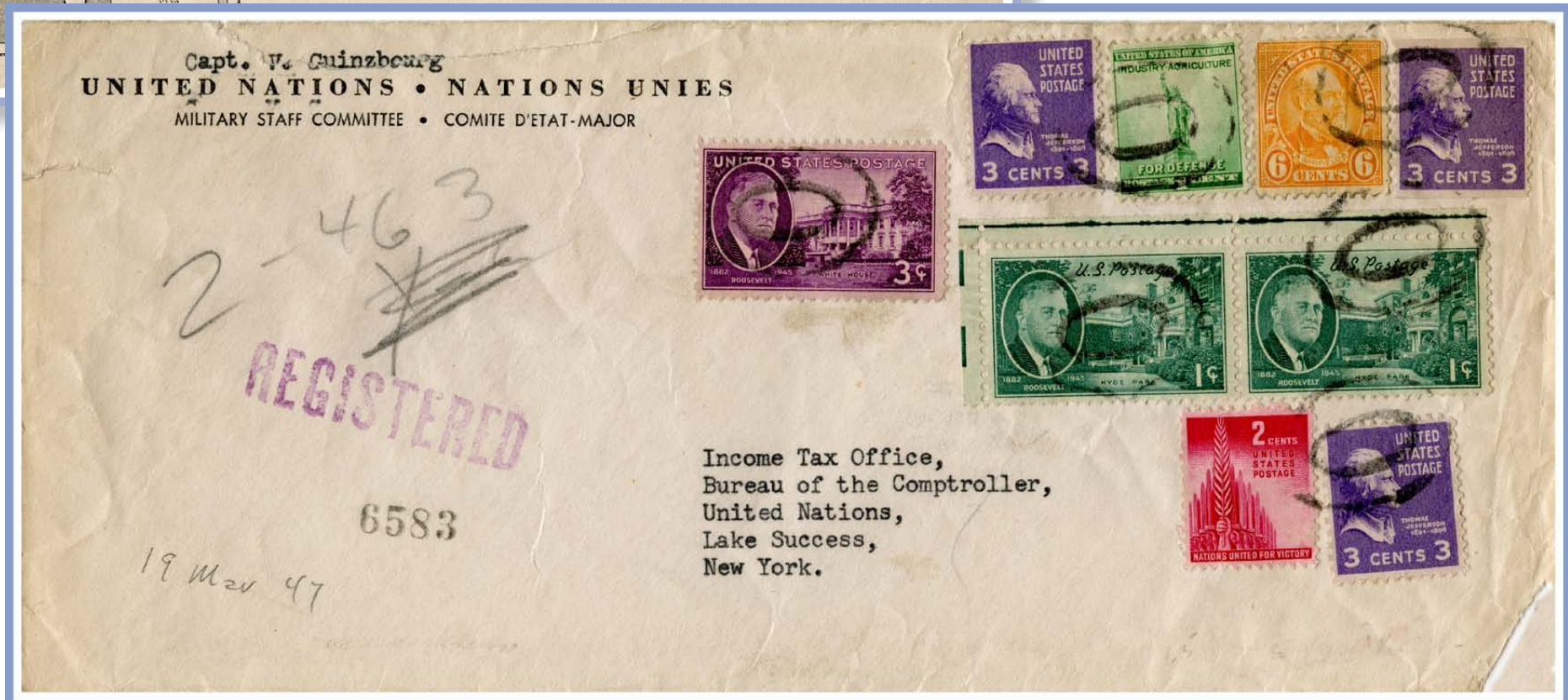


Oswaldo Aranha  
Semi-postal



The Session, including the Military Staff Committee, met 28 April - 15 May 1947, resulting in the *United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP)*.

United Nations, Lake Success, N.Y. to Newtownards, Northern Ireland. 28 April 1947  
5 cents International surface letter rate < 1 oz.  
'Courier' machine cancel used 23 Sep 1946 - 31 Dec 1950  
Private cachet commemorates the first special session



United Nations, Military Staff Committee, Lake Success, New York, local delivery, 19 March 1947  
3 cents letter rate plus 20 cents registration fee (23 cents total)



Three Preparatory Working Group meetings were held in the Empire State Building, New York City to define the charter of the Special Committee on Palestine.



Empire State Building

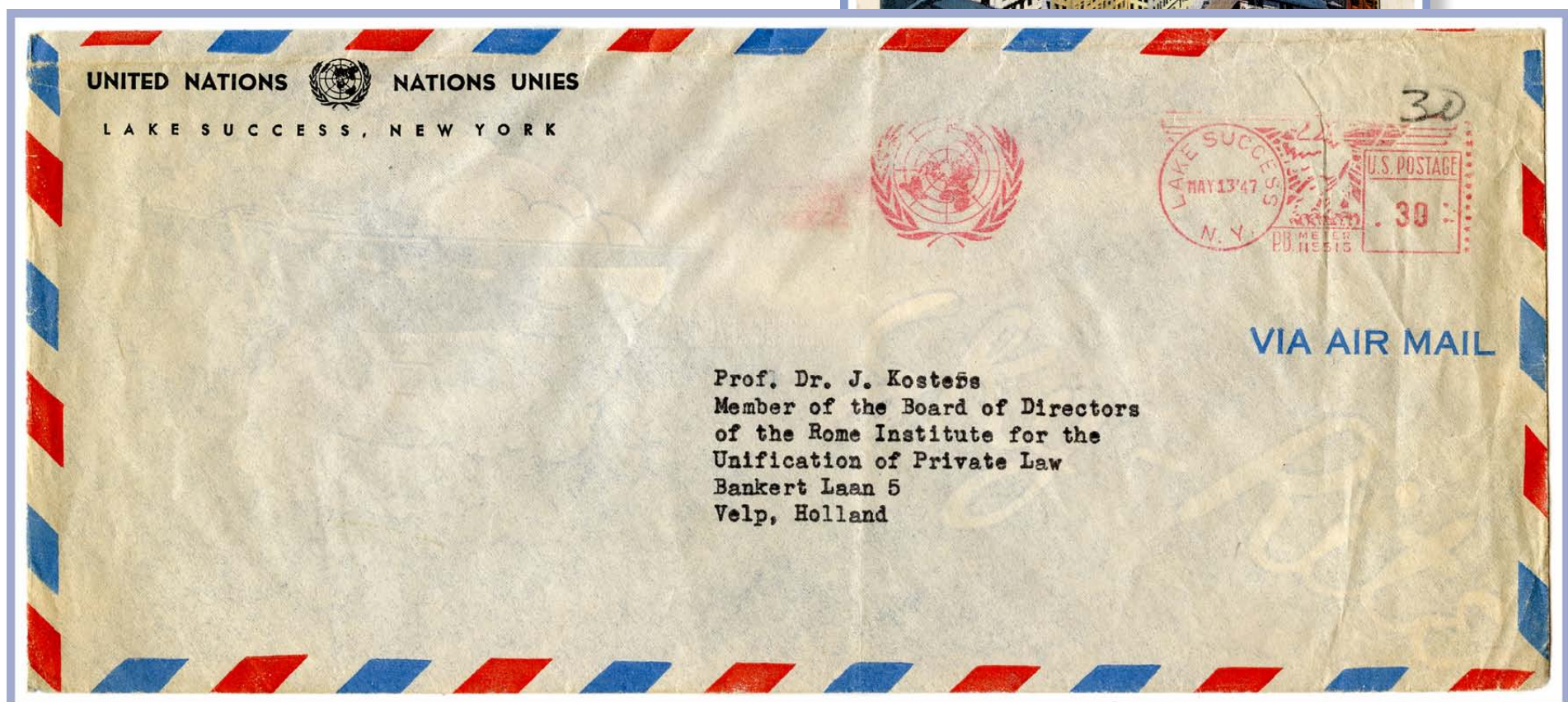
Picture post card of the  
Empire State Building  
Card number 101A  
with divided back  
printed by  
Irving Enden Hill Co., New York

New York, N.Y., Station 61  
to Rochester, N.Y.  
11 April 1936  
1 cent post card rate



Representatives from 11 neutral nations with 20 staff members, completed their plans by 30 May and left for Palestine.

The Lake Success U.N. post office used U.S. postage.





To Mr. Trygve Lie,  
Secretary General of the United Nations,  
Lake Success.

Dear Sir,

I, the signed underneath, Kirstein Abram,  
inmate of the camp Team 1069 in Weilheim/006.  
U.S.A. Occupation Zone in Germany, do apply to you to transmit  
my following request to the meeting of the United Nations which  
will consider the problem of Palestine.

During the World War II I have had suffered in the  
German Nazi camps. There the Nazis  
of my dearest and nearest. The vic  
brought the liberation of all oppr  
Jewish people. 21 months after the  
camp in Germany, among the murder

As the Special Session met, many Displaced Persons (DP) camp internees were assisted by pro-relocation Jewish representatives to send requests to the U.N. for relocation of internees to Palestine. The instructions to the Committee were to ignore all external input to prevent being influenced.

Englische Sprache



Mr. Trygve Lie  
Secretary General of the United Nations

Lake Success

**U.S.A.**

**Mr. Trygve Lie**

**Secretary General of the United Nations**

**LAKE SUCCESS**

**U. S. A.**

Assembly Center 538  
Wetzlar a.d. Lahn, Germany  
to Lake Success, New York, 25 April 1947  
75 pfennig international surface letter rate

Camp Team 1069 - Weilheim o.d. Bad, Germany  
to the U.N. in Lake Success, New York, 2 May 1947  
75 pfennig international surface letter rate

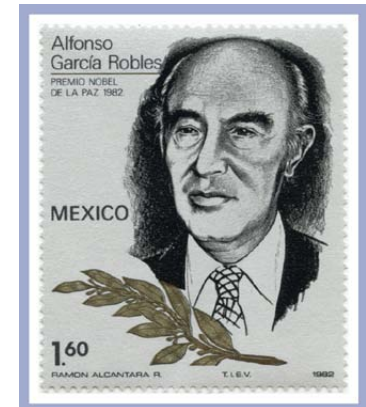




Jerusalem Y.M.C.A., Real photo postcard, split back



Enrique Fabregat  
(1895 - 1976)  
Committee member



Dr. Alphonso Garcia Robles  
(1911-1991)  
Secretary



Jerusalem, ATM Vending Machine stamp

Committee offices were opened in the Jerusalem Y.M.C.A. and members were housed in nearby hotels with the first meeting on 16 June. Committee mail often included a manuscript 'Y.M.C.A.' in the return address.

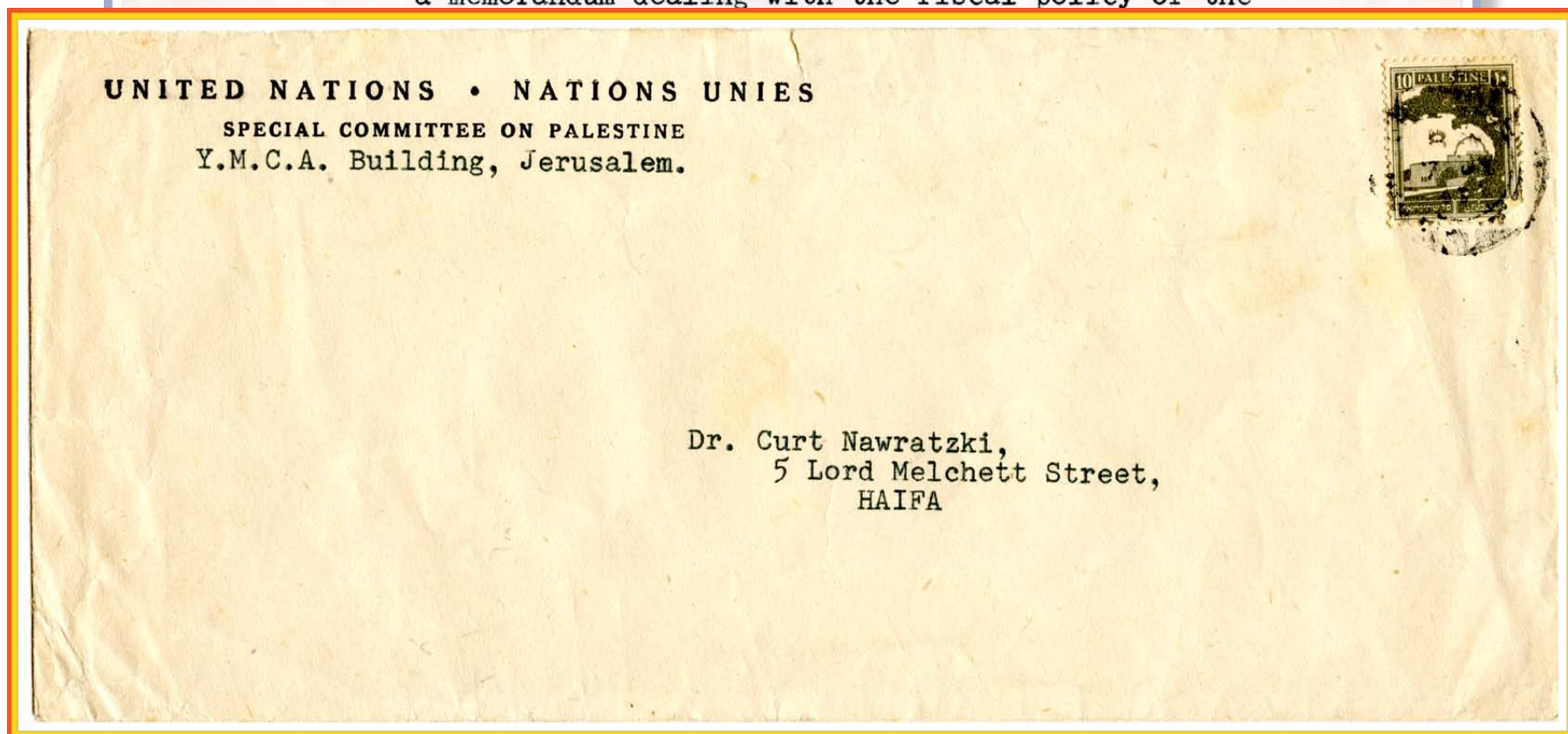
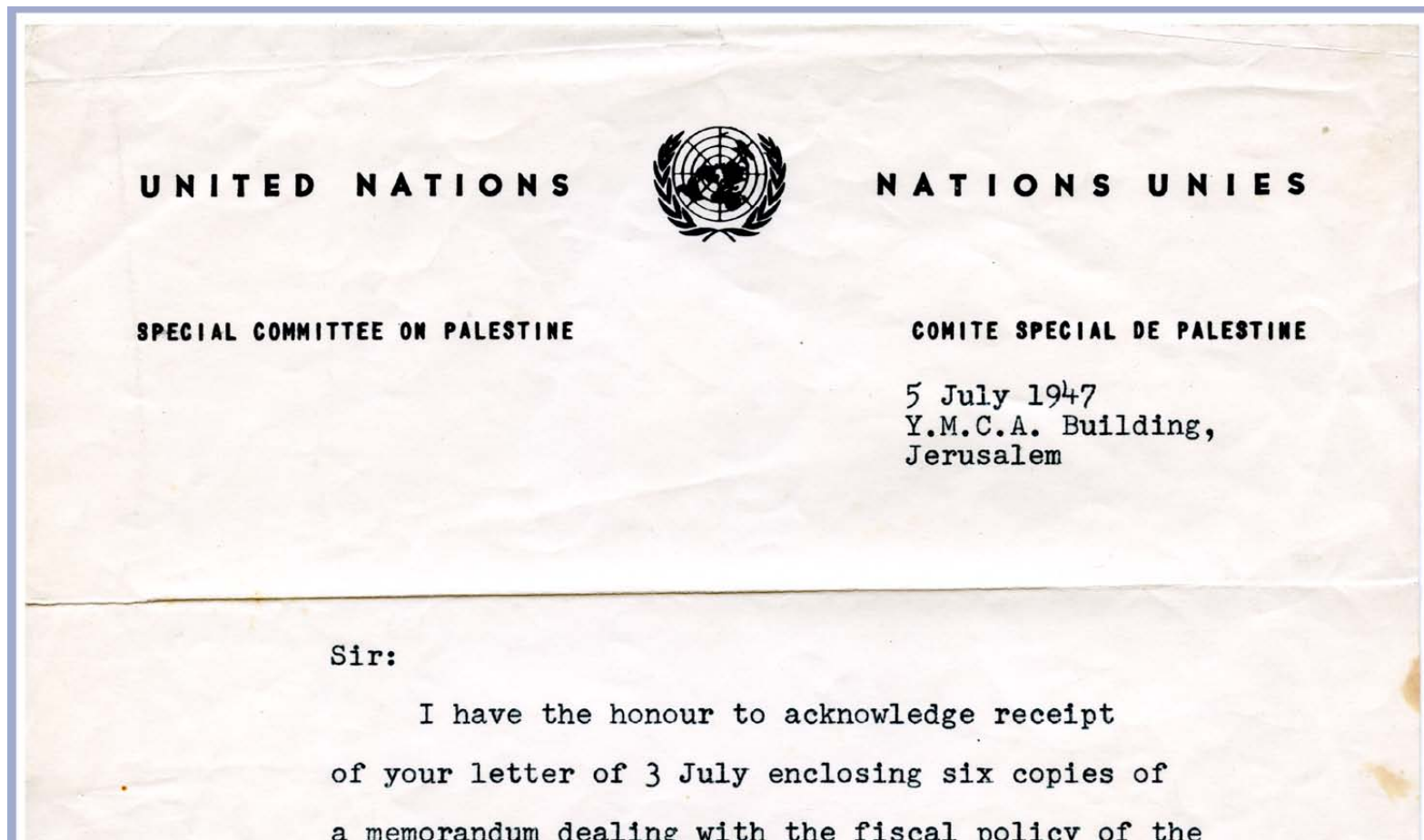


UNSCOP Committee mail with 'Y.M.C.A.' manuscript return address  
Jerusalem to Richmond Hill, Long Island, New York, 19 July 1947, 65 piaster foreign airmail letter rate

**Six reported examples of Special Committee service mail sent Internationally**



The Committee began its administrative work by requesting both governmental and private documents.



UNSCOP, Jerusalem to Haifa, 5 July 1947; 10 piaster domestic letter rate, after receipt of documents

*Two reported examples of Special Committee service mail sent to Haifa*



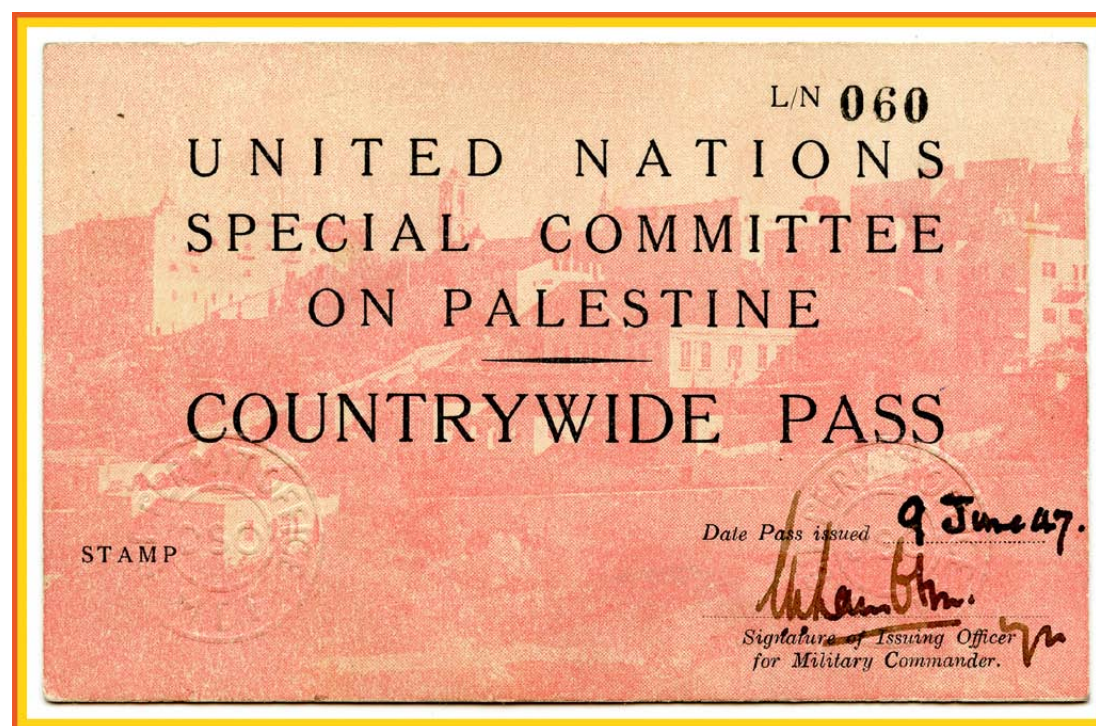
Committee members were issued special 'Countrywide Passes' which allowed them to travel extensively within the mandate, surveying areas and collecting testimony from both Arab and Jewish populations. Dr. Ralph Bunche coordinated the visits to Arab representatives.



Dr. Ralph Bunche  
(1904-1971)  
Principle Secretary  
*Value in Euros*

UNSCOP countrywide pass with embossed seal issued to American committee member J. Stieren, Salvia Hotel Passes printed 29 May 1947 and issued by M.E.F. Permit Office

**Only reported example**



Two meetings were also held in Beirut with the Arab League government representatives of Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria. As Transjordan was not a member of the Arab League, committee members traveled to Transjordan to meet with King Hussein.

### Leaders of the Arab League



Egypt  
King Farouk  
(1920 - 1965)



Iraq  
King Faisal II  
(1930 - 1958)



Lebanon  
President Bechara el-Khoury  
(1890 - 1964)



Saudi Arabia  
King Abdul Aziz ibn Saud  
(1875 - 1953)



Syria  
President Shukri el Kouatly  
(1891 - 1967)



Transjordan  
King Abdullah ibn Hussein  
(1882 - 1951)



Transjordan

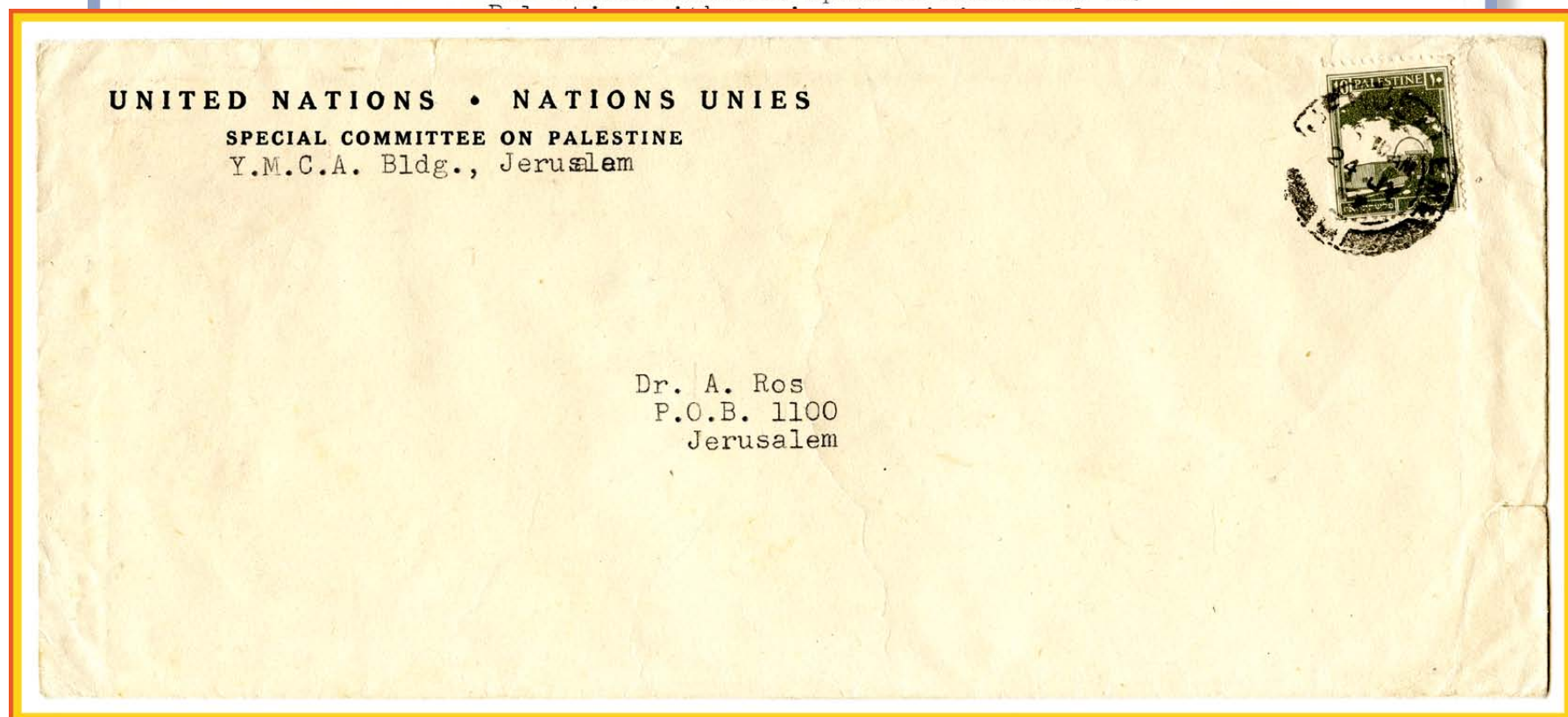
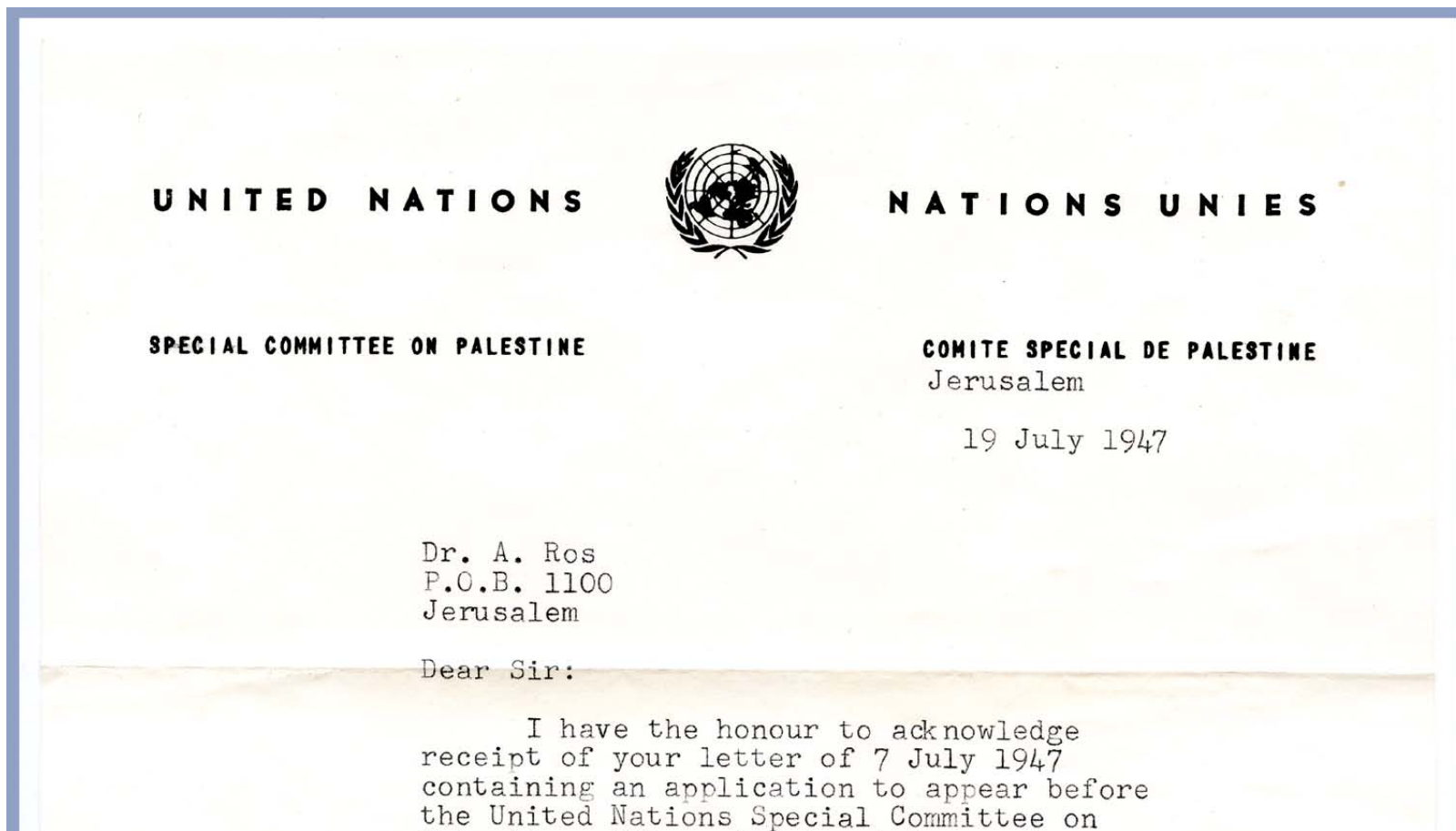
King (Amir) Abdullah ibn Hussein of Transjordan met with committee members on 25 July 1947. During the meeting, he suggested that the proposed Arab sections of Palestine should be added to Transjordan. The Arab League grudgingly agreed to accept that proposal as a last resort.



Arab League



Applications to testify were also received from prominent Jewish and Arab residents.



UNSCOP, Local service within Jerusalem, 24 July 1947; 10 piaster domestic letter rate, thanking sender for their willingness to testify although it was late  
*Mailed on last day of committee operation in Palestine*

***Only reported example of Special Committee service mail sent within Jerusalem***



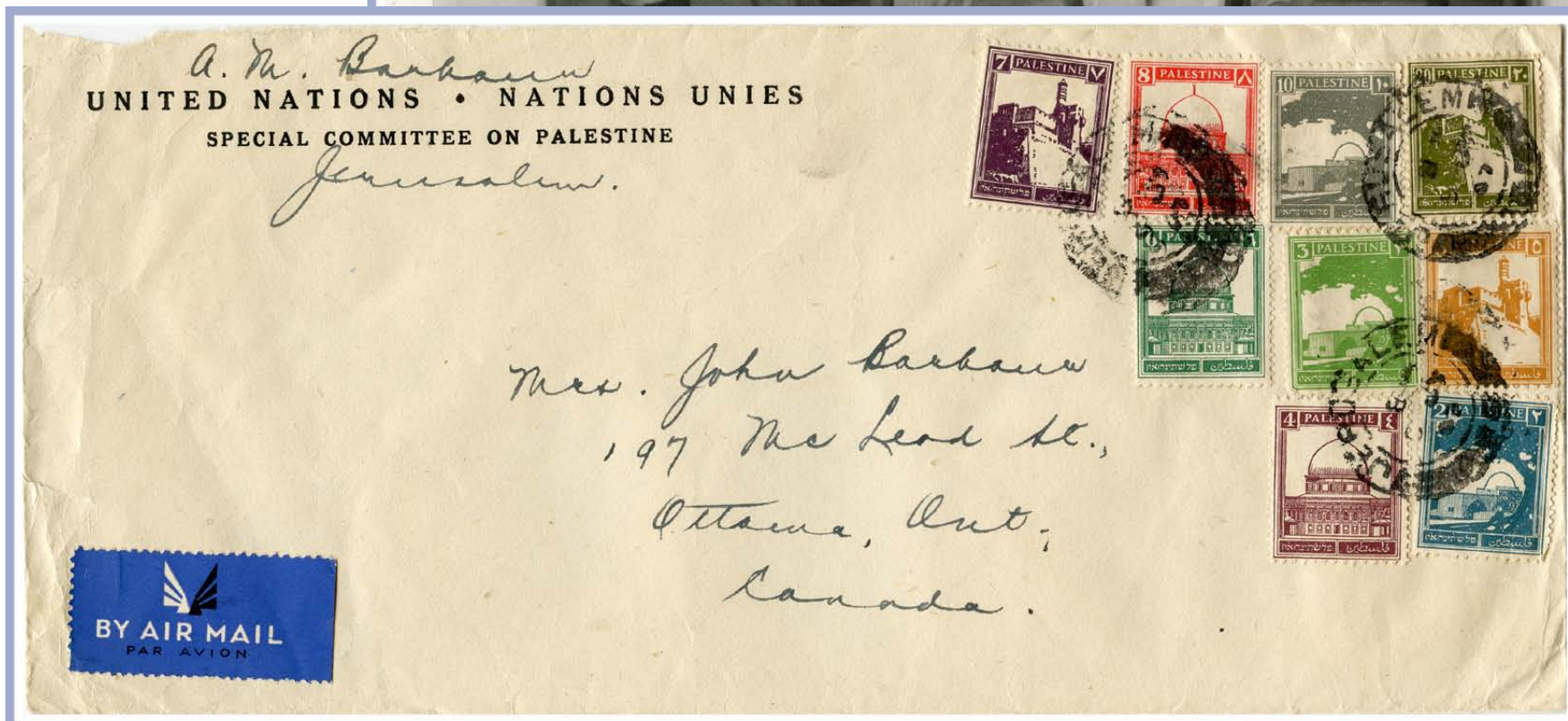


Jerusalem YMCA  
Missing phosphor tag

Dr. Nicolaas Selhorst Blom, Former Director of Justice in the Netherlands East Indies, Now a member of the United Nations Inquiry Commission on Palestine, leaves the Y.M.C.A. building in Jerusalem after an informal but secret meeting. Violence in the Holy Land has simmered to nothingness during the group's deliberations. The Arabs have been unusually quiet having boycotted the Commission.

Official Photo:  
(Fabcox) (E-6-1.1-47)  
June 24 1947

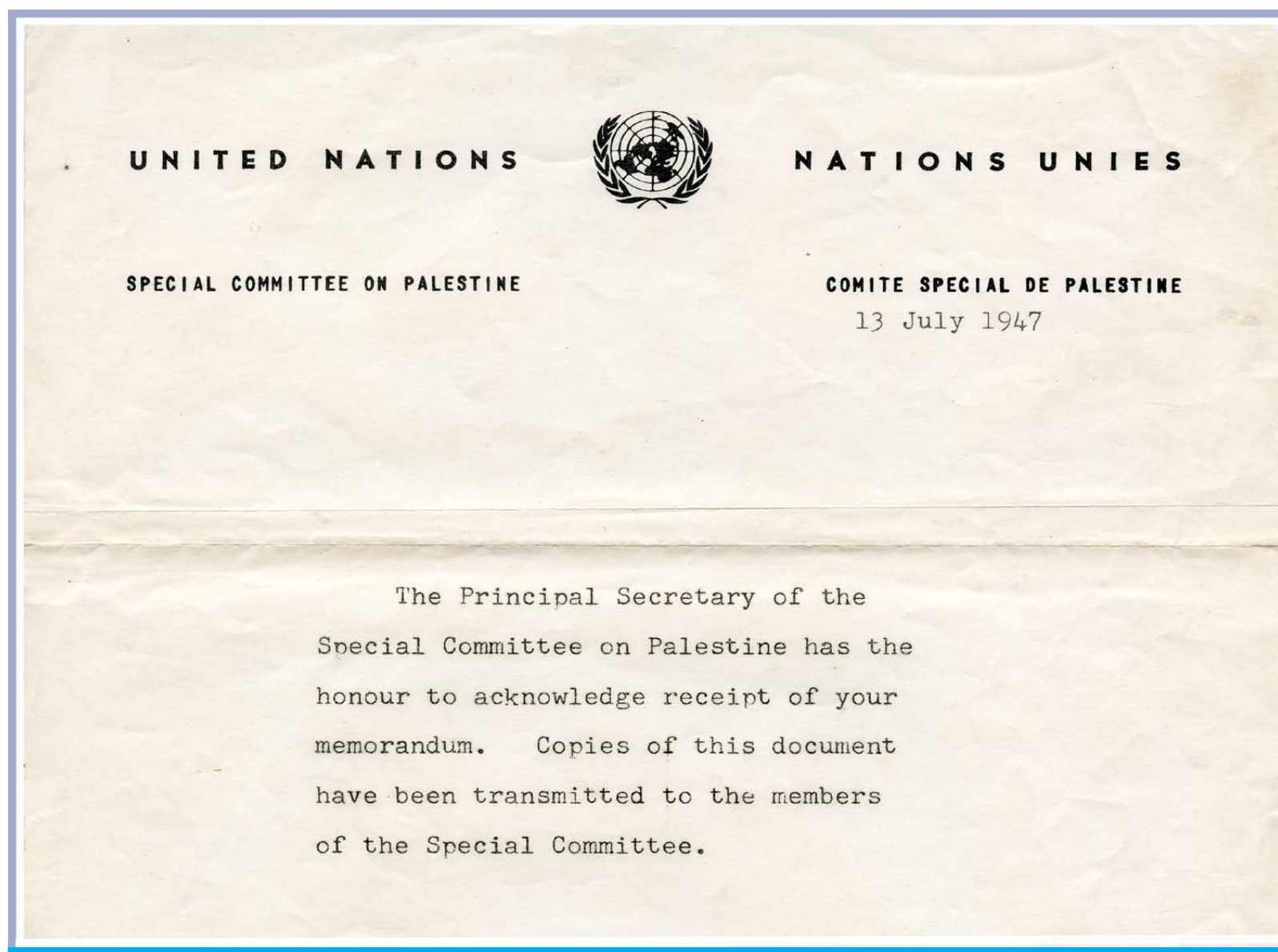
In addition to procedural and document requests, committee internal discussions, interviews, and special hearings were held. The hearings took place from 4-17 July 1947 in the Jerusalem Y.M.C.A.



UNSCOP  
Jerusalem, Palestine  
to Ottawa, Canada,  
8 July 1947  
65 piaster  
foreign airmail rate  
Mailed during hearings

Six reported  
examples of  
Special Committee  
service mail sent  
Internationally





Official correspondence was key to presenting information before the committee for review and evaluation during the hearings.

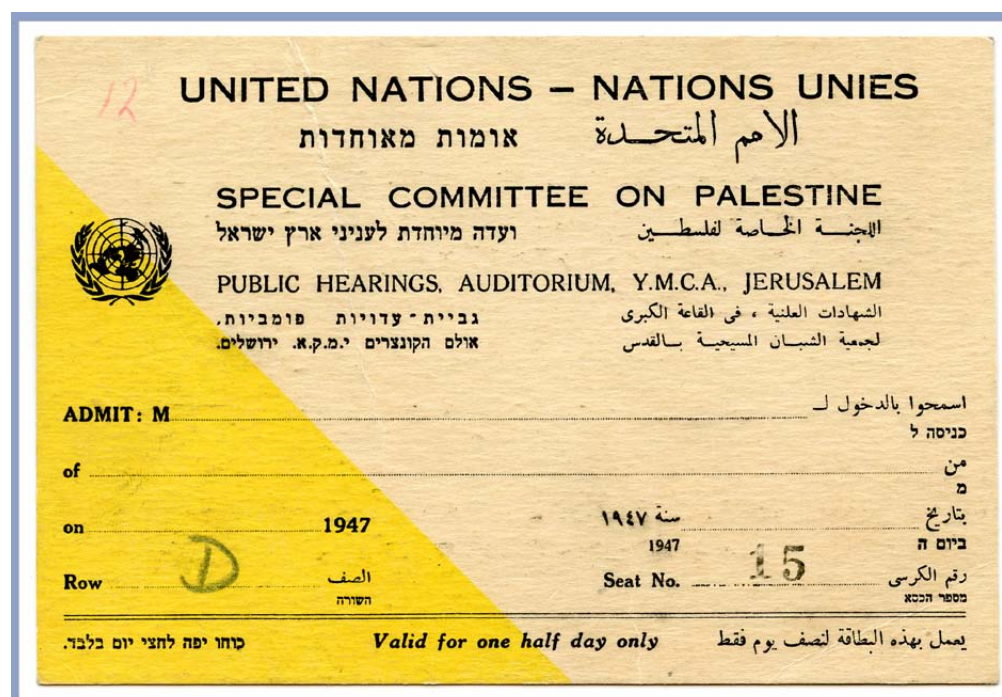
Public Attendance Hearing ticket in English, Hebrew and Arabic

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, provided testimony as a private Jewish citizen voluntarily.



Dr. Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952)

tab quote Jeremiah 31,17  
"...your children shall come back to their own country."







The Max Nordau Blockaded ship carrying illegal immigrants



H.M.S. Ajax (22)  
British light cruiser

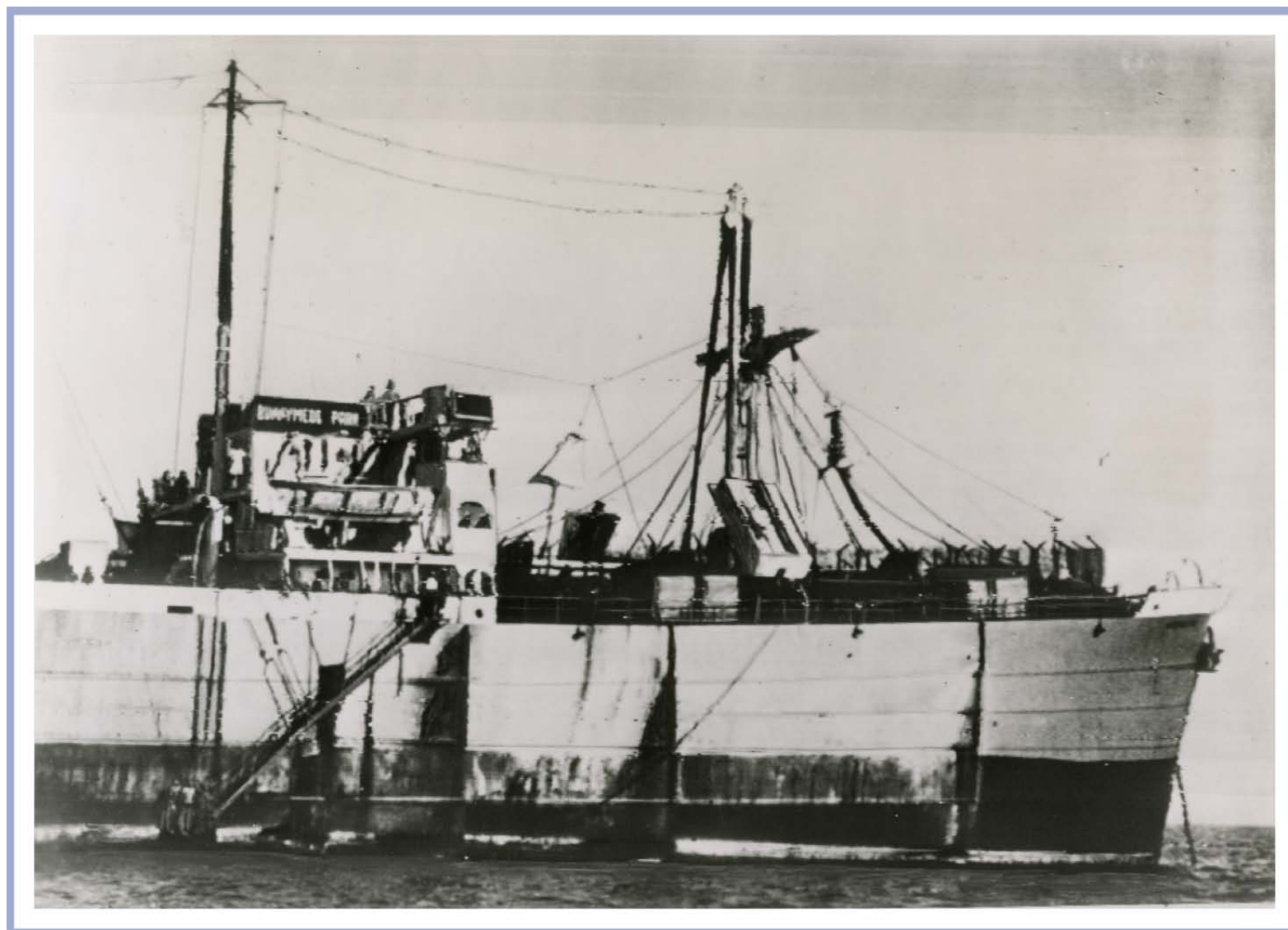


S.S. Exodus 1947 in port of Haifa under British Royal Marine control  
(Photo credit : Wikimedia Commons)



S.S. Exodus 1947  
Moored in the Port of Haifa

Great Britain didn't want additional illegal immigrants arriving in Palestine and the British Navy blockaded the Palestinian coastline. Ships with over 120,000 Jewish refugees continued to attempt to land but were turned away or sent to detention camps in Cyprus. Exodus 1947 (ex-President Warfield) with 4,515 refugees was boarded by British marines from the HMS Ajax and brought to the Haifa anchorage.



Several UNSCOP members working in Eratz witnessed the Jewish refugees being removed from the Exodus 1947 and placed on ships returning to Europe.

*"British ship Runnymede Park, with prisoner cages on the bow, at anchor in Port de Bouc, France after it and two other British ships brought in Jewish refugees turned back from Palestine. Refugees have refused to leave the ship."*

*Acme Telephoto  
30 July 1947*

The Runnymede Park, Empire Rival and Ocean Vigor returned to France and Hamburg, Germany with refugees from the S.S. Exodus 1947.





United Nations Geneva Headquarters, Souvenir Post Card  
 Swiss stamp, United Nations Geneva cancellation device First day of use 2 January 1947  
*Incorrect accent mark 'é' (Genève) rather than the correct 'è' (Genève) in cancel*

The Special Committee moved from the Jerusalem YMCA to an office within the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.



Palais des Nations  
 'Specimen' overprint  
*in red ink*

While in Geneva, the Special Committee used Swiss postage stamps and both the postal facilities in the palais as well as the regular Swiss post office.



Geneva, Switzerland to Ottawa, Canada, 9 August 1947, 60 centimes foreign airmail letter rate using Swiss postage and the Express Letters service  
 UNSCOP return address in manuscript on reverse flap of envelope.

*Nine reported examples of Special Committee service mail from UNSCOP while in Geneva*



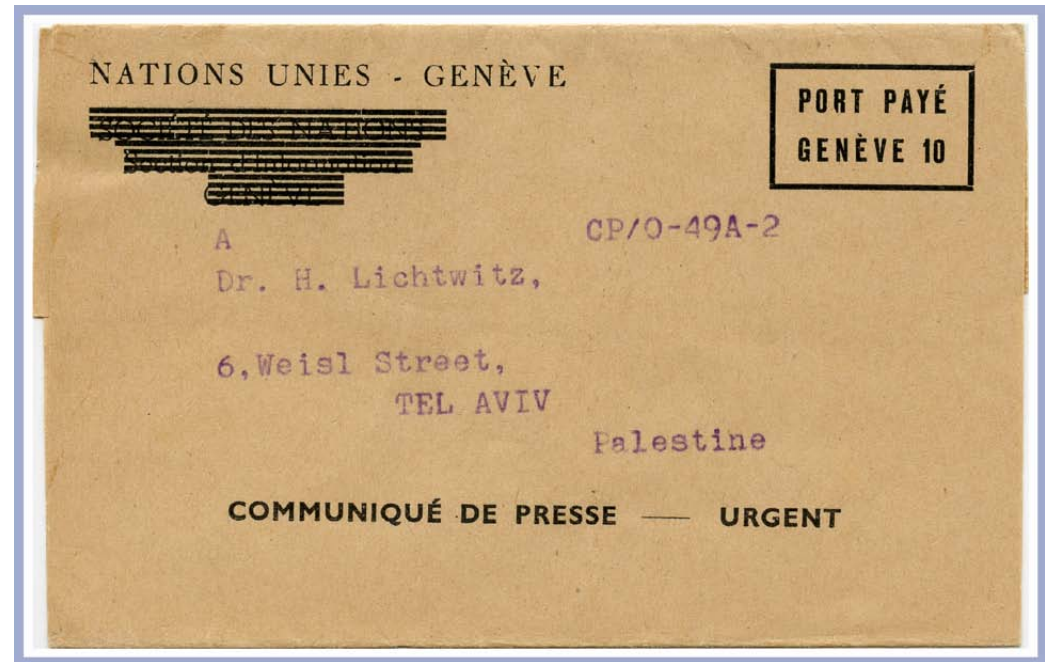
The Special Committee brought the information gathered in Palestine with them to Geneva.

United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland  
to Tel Aviv, Palestine, circa 1947  
News release wrapper  
with pre-printed "port payé"  
(postage paid) indicia  
for printed matter  
Content likely announced  
United Nations activity in Palestine



Jerusalem, Palestine  
Plate number

Overprinted League of Nations wrapper use is recorded between late 1946 and early 1948.



UNSCOP manuscript return address on rear flap of cover  
Jerusalem, Palestine to Ottawa, Canada, 12 June 1947  
65 piaster foreign airmail letter rate

Six reported examples of Special Committee service mail sent Internationally

Circular Overprint  
'Service de la Société  
des Nations'  
in black ink

Text Overprint  
'Specimen'  
in red ink



Palais des Nations, Geneva

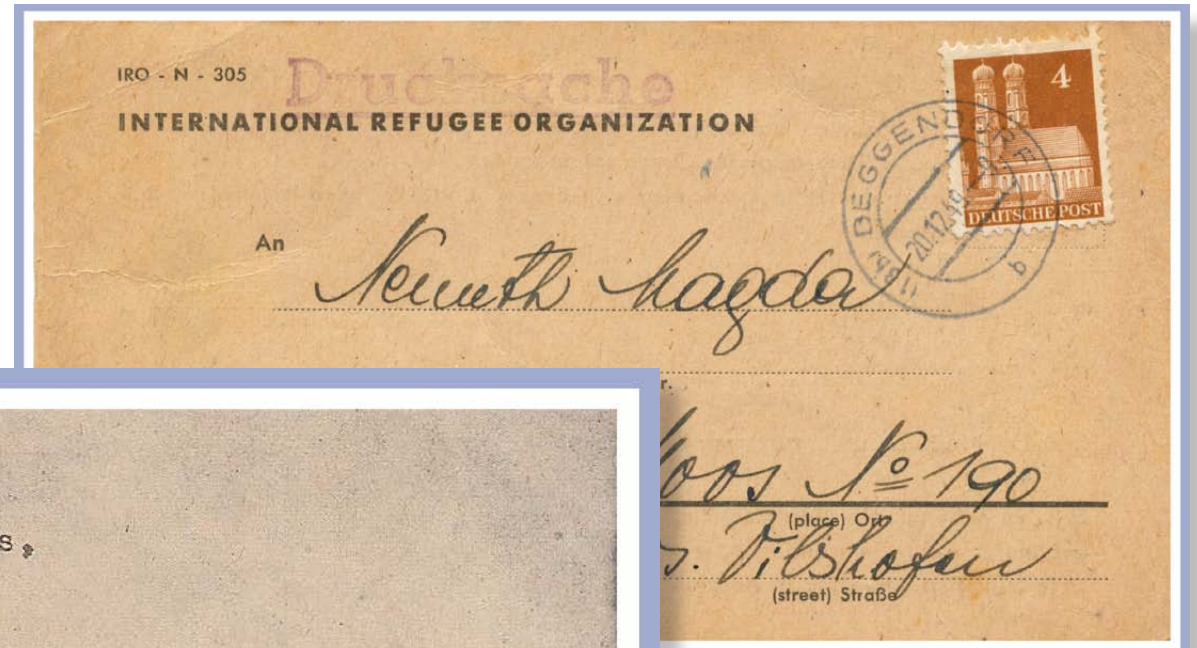


UNSCOP, Jerusalem to Fort Garry, Canada, 25 June 1947  
35 piaster foreign airmail postcard rate

Only reported example of Special Committee service mail using a postcard



In Geneva, members of the Special Committee were urged by an International Refugee Organization (IRO) representative to visit German and Austrian Displaced Person (DP) camps. Although not on the official schedule of the Committee, several members did make visits to DP camps such as Team 1065, Neu-Freimann Camp near Munich, Germany.



Deggendorf Refugee Camp to  
Tilshofen, Germany  
20 December 1949  
4 pfennig printed matter rate

Team 1065 - Neu-Freimann Siedlung,  
Munich, Germany to Lake Success,  
New York, 6 May 1947  
75 pfennig surface letter rate

To Mr. Trygve Lie,  
Secretary General of the United Nations,  
Lake Success.

Dear Sir,

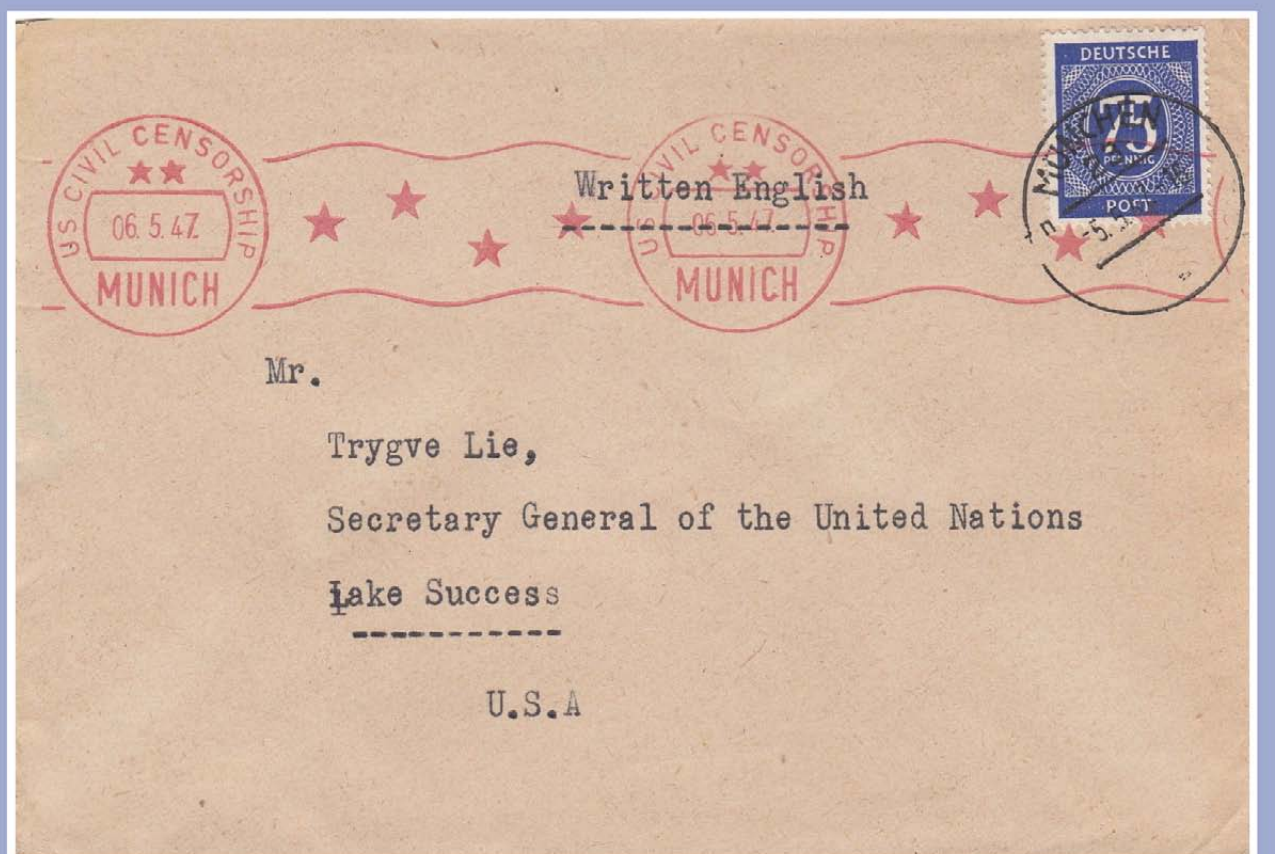
I, the signed underneath, Fleischer Laybne,  
inmate of the camp Team 1065 in Neu-Freimann,  
U.S.A. Occupation Zone in Germany, do apply to you to transmit  
my following request to the meeting of the United Nations which  
will consider the problem of Palestine.

During the World War II  
hands against Nazi-Germany for the  
brethern were fallen in the fight.  
fighting also for the liberation of  
21 months after the vict  
in Germany, among my enemies - the

In the name of my fight  
of the great idea to which you are

Take me away from the ca  
and sisters in Palestine, give me  
peaceable and normal life in my ov

April, 25th, 1947







JNF label depicting majority report partitions  
Overprinted for postal use  
**Slanted '5' variety**

Jerusalem was to be an international city, or split between factions.

The committee developed two reports. A majority report recommended two independent states, one Arabic and one Jewish, with independent governments. A minority report recommended a single state of Palestine with an inter-dependent government administration and shared economy.



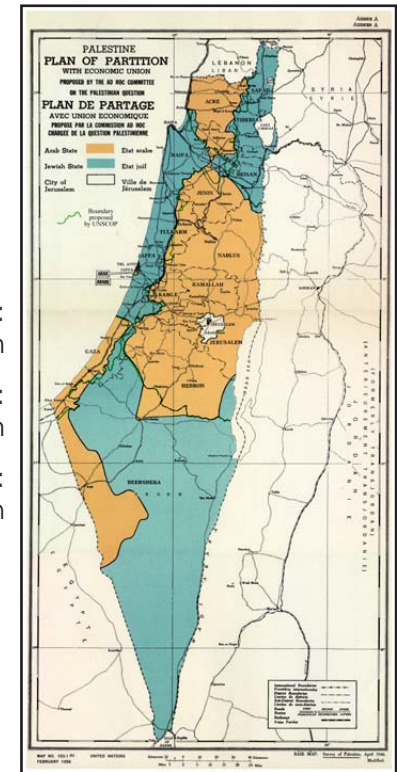
Albert Einstein  
(1879-1955)  
Margin tab  
with inscription

Albert Einstein had serious reservations concerning the partitioning plan to divide the land into two states separating Arabs and Jews.

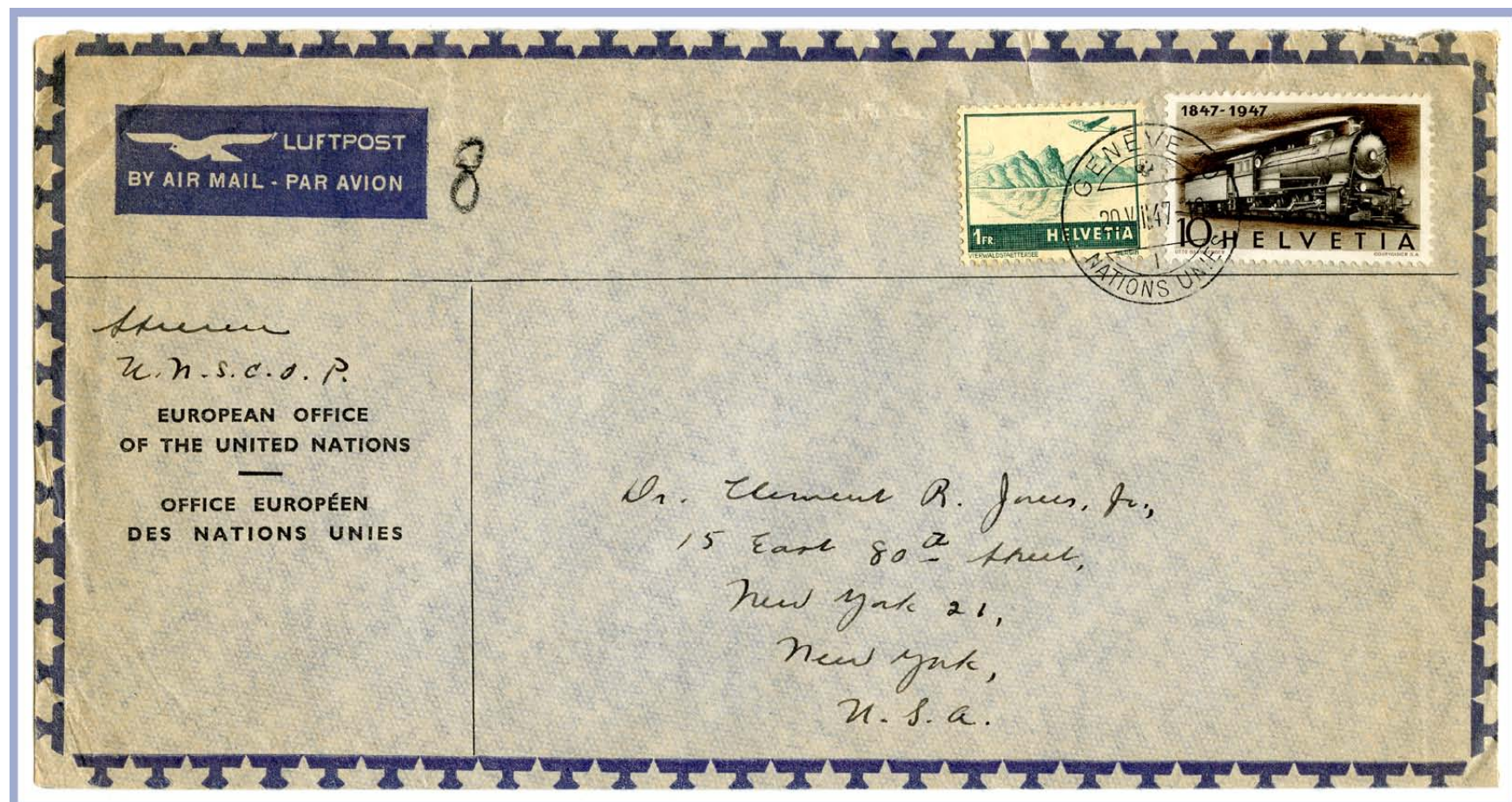
Orange:  
Palestinian population

Blue-green:  
Jewish population

White:  
International City of Jerusalem



Majority Report Map



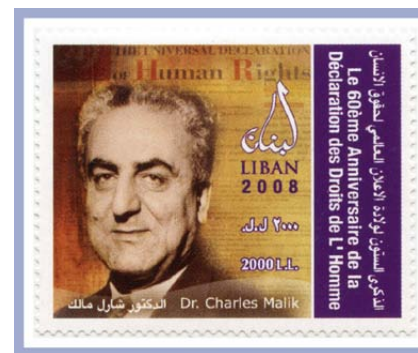
UNSCOP, Geneva, Switzerland to New York, N.Y., 20 August 1947; 30 centimes <20 grams, 2 x 40 centimes airmail fee per 5 grams (1.10 Franc total)  
Hand cancel device with shaded cross, mailed during the committee's Geneva deliberation period by J. Stieren (manuscript)

**Nine reported examples of Special Committee service mail from UNSCOP while in Geneva**



The General Assembly formed an Ad Hoc Committee to study and recommend Majority and Minority reports. Sub-Committee #1 would study the Majority report and Sub-Committee #2, the Minority.

Sub-committee #2, composed mainly of the Arab interests, suggested the International Court of Justice (ICJ) should issue advisory opinions on points within the reports.



Charles Malik (1906-1987)  
Lebanon



(GEC certificate 3046)

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

*Top margin block of six with arrow cutout*

Only canceled stamps were sold to collectors by the ICJ.

Charles Malik of Lebanon proposed it be brought before the U.N. Political Committee. The suggestions were ignored.

Sub-committee #1, recommended the Majority report for Mandatory partitioning be presented to the 2nd General Assembly for approval. Abba Silver (1893-1963) and the Jewish Agency accepted the partition plan, the Arab League rejected it.

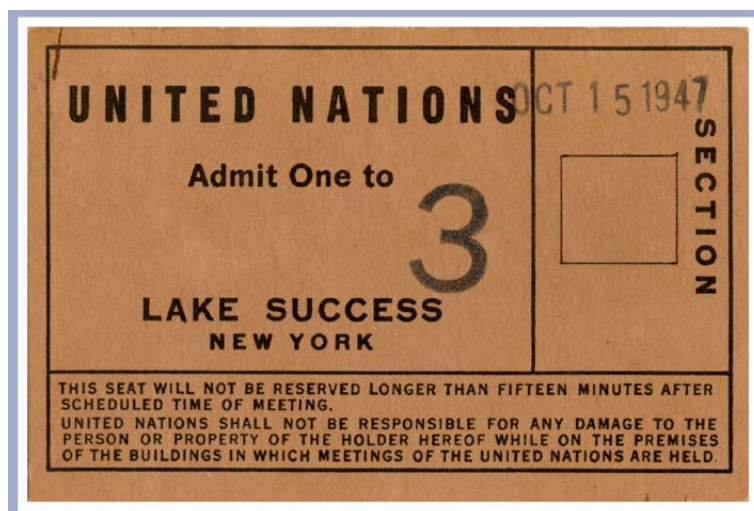
The recommendation was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly as Resolution 181 by a vote of 33 to 13 with 10 abstentions and 1 absent on 29 November 1947.



Abba Silver  
Jewish Agency



United Nations New York General Assembly  
18 cents international airmail letter value  
*Margin Inscription block of 10*



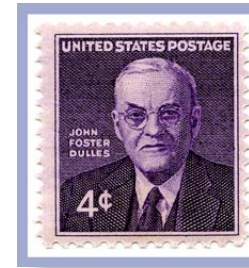
Observer entry pass to 2nd Session of the General Assembly  
15 October 1947





Asgeir Aesgeirsson

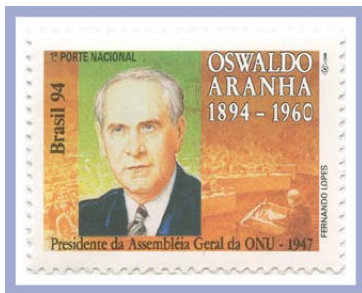
U.N. Resolution 181 ratified the partition plan and was mainly supported by non-arabic nations. Representatives favoring it were Asgeir Aesgeirsson (1894-1972), John Foster Dulles (1888-1959), Oswaldo Euclides Aranha, Carlos Peña Romulo (1899-1985), Paul Henri Spaak (1899-1972), Lester Bowles Pearson (1897-1972) and Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962).



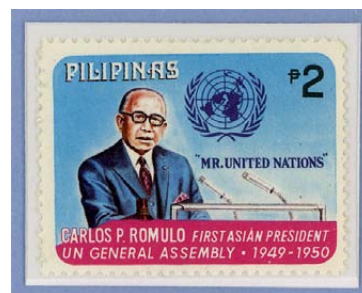
John Foster Dulles  
1st class letter rate  
USA



Lester Bowles Pearson  
Plate block #1  
Vertical Phosphor Bars  
Printed by Canadian Bank Note,  
Ottawa, Canada  
Designer David Annesley



Oswaldo Euclides Aranha  
2nd Assembly President

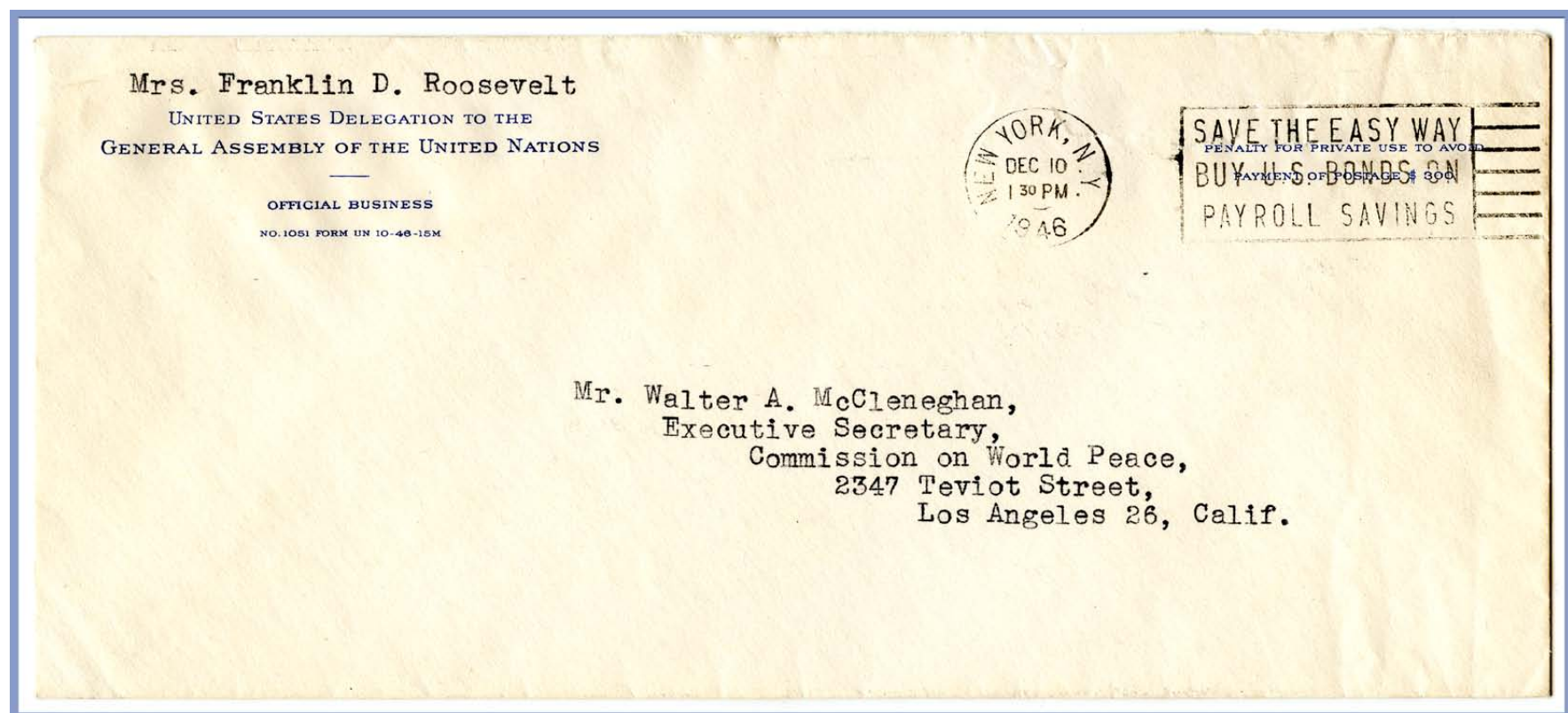


Carlos Peña Romulo  
Philippines



Paul Henri Spaak  
Belgium

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was a United States representative to the United Nations 2nd General Assembly.



United Nations, New York to Los Angeles, California, 10 December 1946, Penalty mail required no postage for domestic destinations



The Special Committee designated Jerusalem as an independent, international city. It truly is the heart of three religions in its mixed population of Muslim, Jewish and Christian citizens. No single religion or nationality can lay claim to the city.



Lithographic postcard depicting the Golden Gate (Entry gate of Christ into Jerusalem)  
Printed in the Holy Land by 'Paiphot', card number 3482, David Roberts Designer



Stamp design is a detail taken from the mosaic Madaba Map



Jerusalem as seen on the Madaba Map.

The Madaba map is part of a floor mosaic in the church of Saint George in Madaba, Jordan. The map is the oldest surviving original cartographic depiction of the Holy Land and especially Jerusalem.



Jerusalem, Palestine



Dome of the Rock  
Finished 691-692 A.D.



Omar el Khatab Mosque  
Finished 1216 A.D.



Western Wall (Wailing Wall)  
Built approx. 19 B.C.

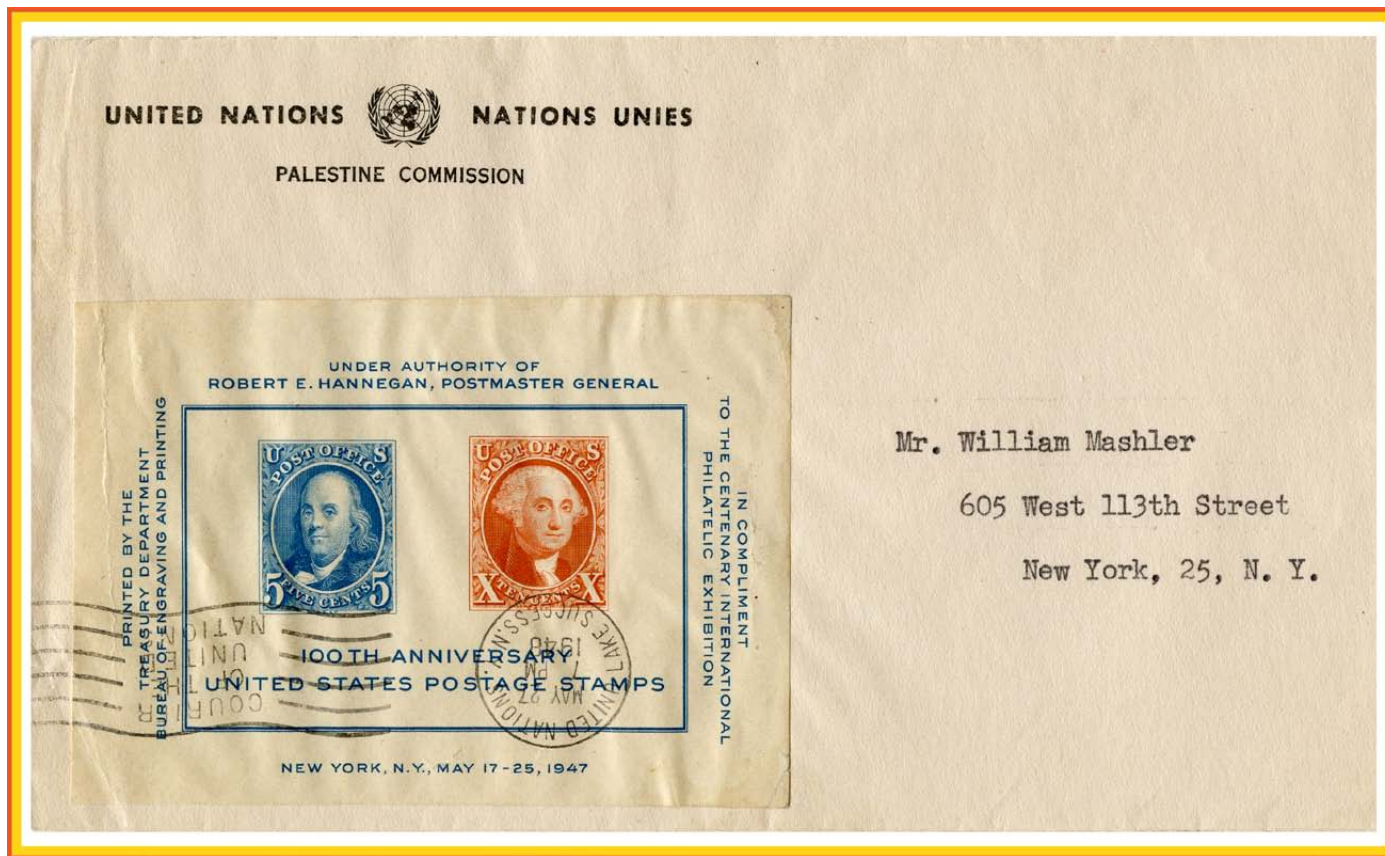


Church of the Holy Sepulchre - 335 A.D.



## Palestine Commission and Secretariat

9 January - 11 December 1948



A Palestine Commission first met in Lake Success to discuss civil administration and the security of Palestine after the British left. The Secretariat headquarters was in Hotel Zion in Haifa and deployed 10 observers and 51 police guards.

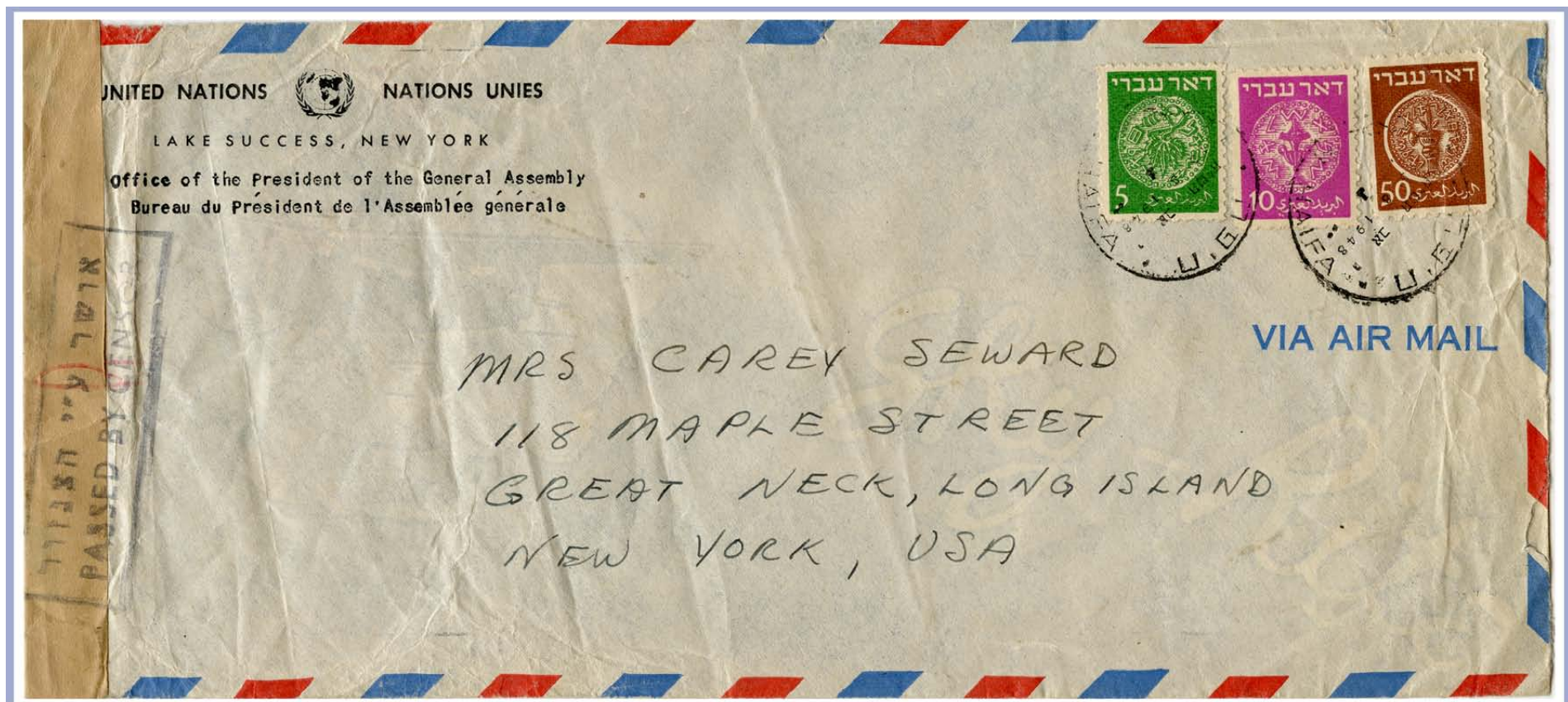


U.N. Police Guards

New York, New York local mail, 27 May 1948, addressed to a junior political officer of the U.N. Palestine Commission →

*Three reported examples of official Palestine Commission service mail*

William Mashler was a Commission member and 1 of the 10 observers.



Palestine Secretariat, Haifa, Israel to New York, N.Y., 3 August 1948, 20 mils <25 grams, 45 mils airmail fee per 10 grams (65 mils total)

Mailed after Israeli independence declaration with Israeli censor tape and handstamp

*Service mail of the U.N. Secretariat in Palestine was sent using General Assembly Presidential cornercard stationery*



Continued conflict resulted in Jewish militia groups engaging in attacks and atrocities on civilian Palestinians, prompting in turn attacks on Jewish civilian communities. Full fledged war broke out with both sides battling each other as well as the British.

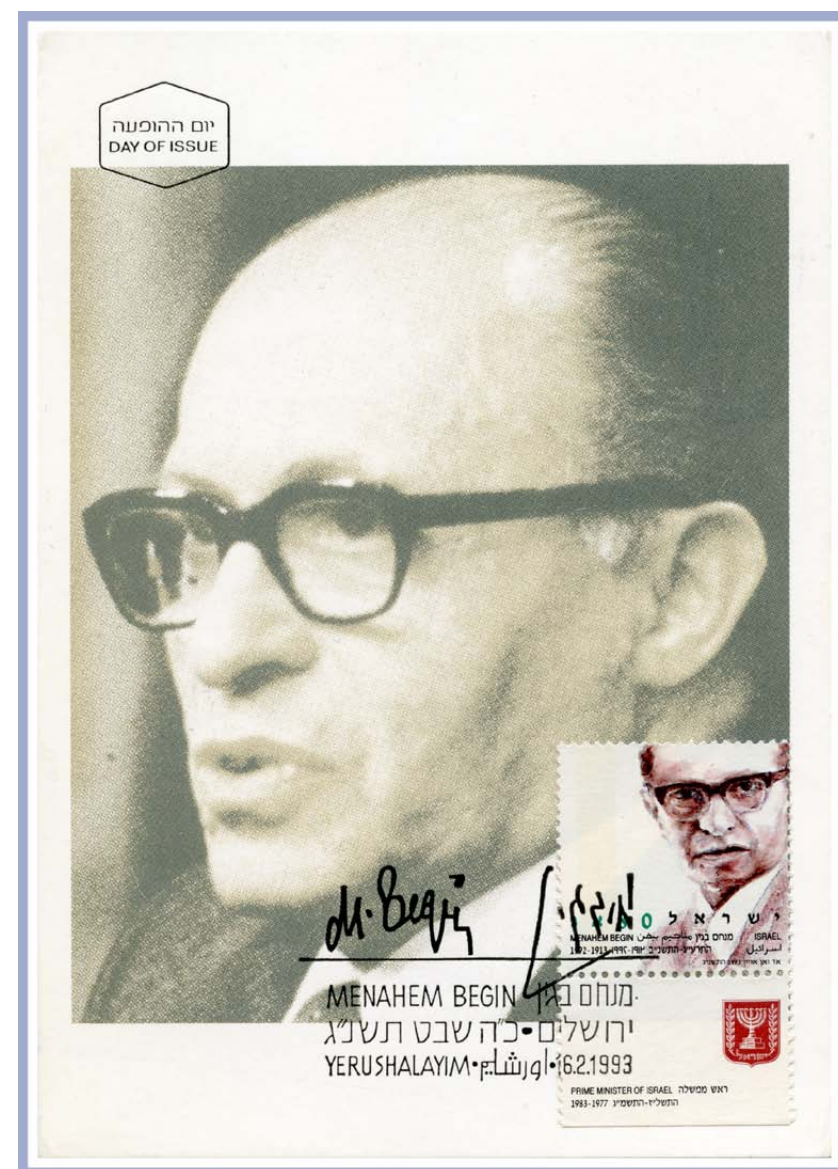


Mountain road to Jerusalem avoiding Jerusalem blockades  
Color alignment dots



Massacre of Deir Yassin by Irgun and Stern

Jerusalem road blockades resulted in attacks on medical supply columns like the Mount Scopus medical convoy resulting in the death of 79 civilian medical personnel.



Menachin Begin, Irgun leader,  
Maximum First Day of Issue Card



Hadassah hospital attack  
Imperforate upper right corner pair



Ismail Safwat Pasha



Iraq Army  
Soldier Stamp  
1973



Lebanese Army  
Soldier



Egyptian Army  
Soldier 1973



Egyptian soldiers  
invade Palestine

On 15 May 1948, Egypt led the Arab Liberation Army with troops from Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Transjordan to occupy Palestine under the command of Ismail Safwat Pasha, of the Arab Liberation Armies. Iraqi positions were later replaced by Trans-Jordanian troops.

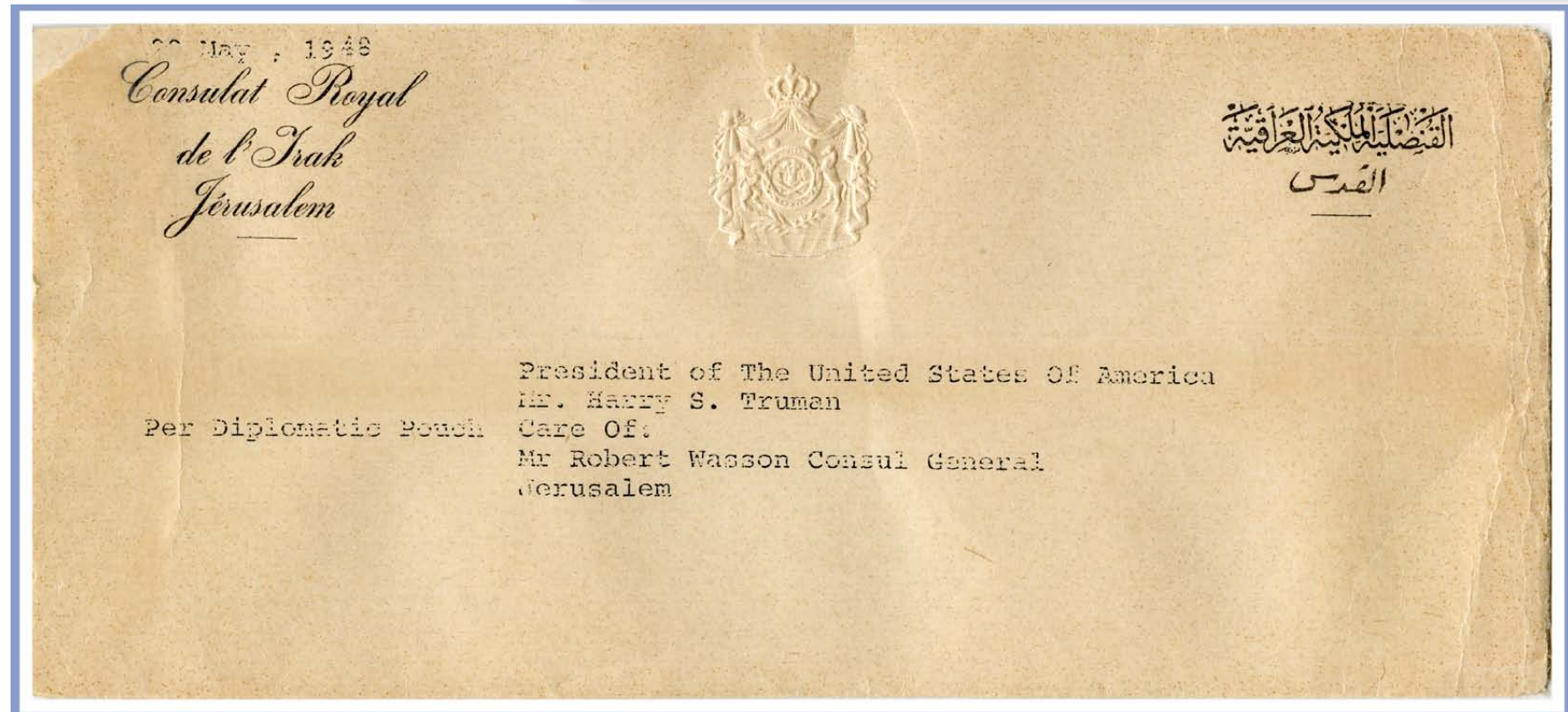
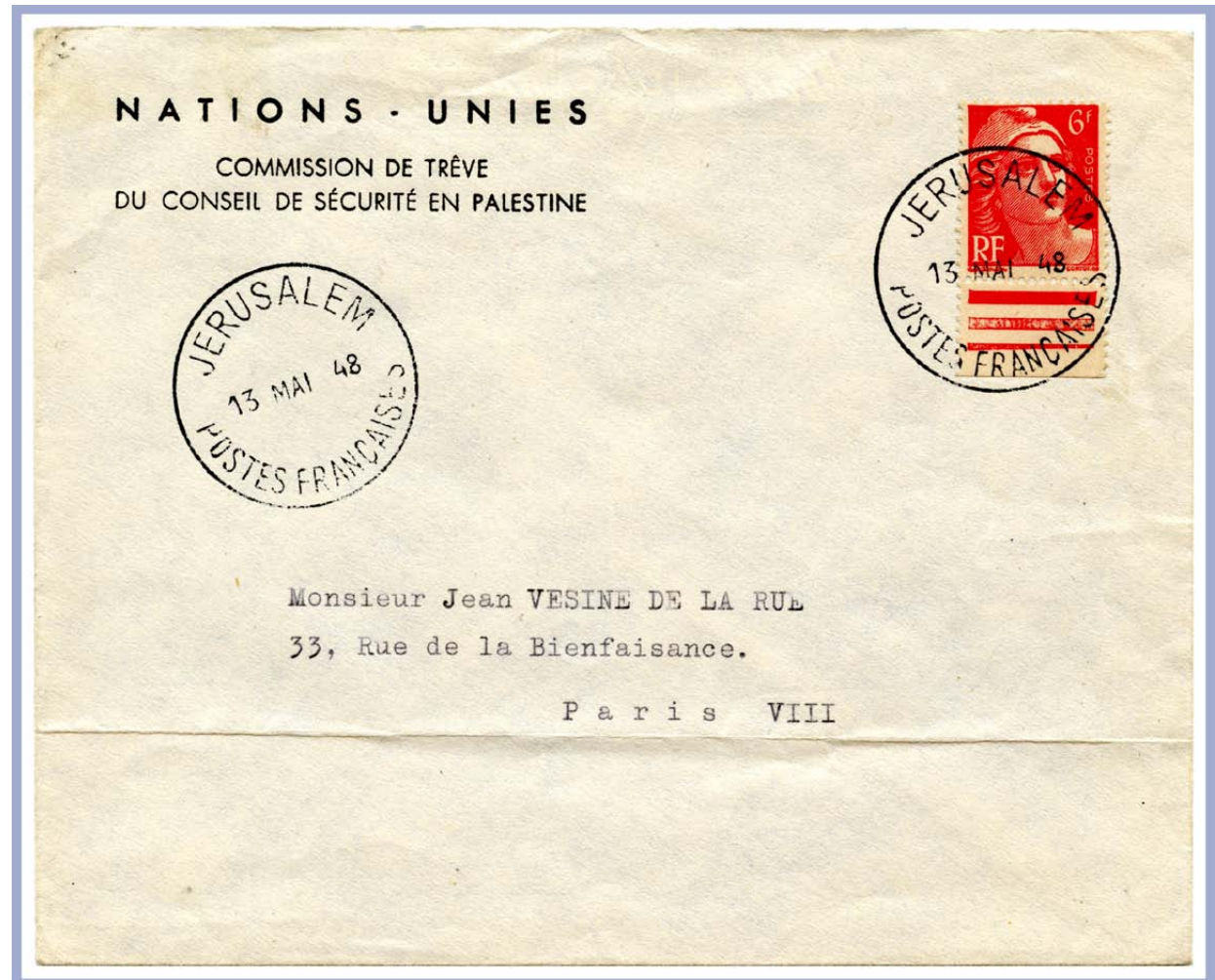


The Arab League rejected the partition plan which brought more conflict. The Security Council called for a truce on 17 April, and **replaced the UNSCOP with a Truce Commission** composed of the local consuls of Belgium, France and the U.S. on 23 April. This resulted in assassination of the American Consul General Thomas Masson (1896-1948).

Palestine Truce Commission, via French consulate, to Paris, France, 13 May 1948, 6 Francs surface rate  
French consulate was granted temporary postal functions per a 1781 French emergency ordinance

**Five reported examples of Truce Commission mail - office open for only 9 days (6-14 May)**

Difficulties with the local Postal service due to the hostilities resulted in the opening of an interim French consulate 'Emergency Post Office'.



Royal Diplomatic Consul of Iraq in Jerusalem, Palestine to U.S. President Harry S. Truman per diplomatic pouch 20 May 1948 in care of the U.S. Consul General, Jerusalem, Palestine





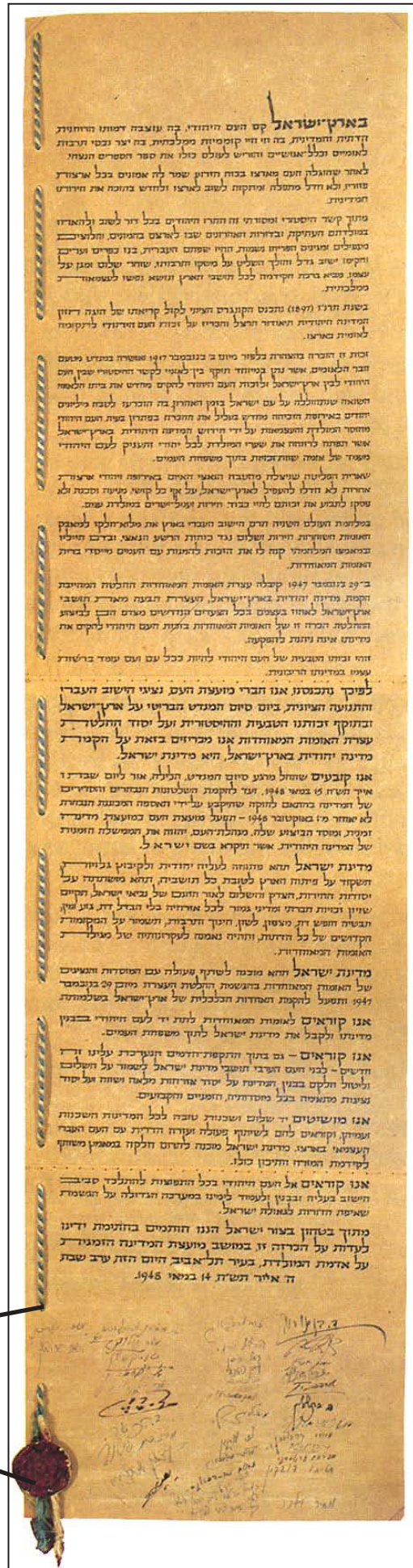
British evacuation and raising of a new standard



David Ben-Gurion Prime Minister



Independence Declaration Signatories



On 14 May 1948, the British forces evacuated Palestine and left the temporary government to address any issues of policing or conflict. Immediately following the British relinquishing the control of Mandate Palestine, David Ben Gurion declared Israel as an independent nation. Signatories to the Independence Declaration included David Ben-Gurion (1886-1973).



Small Block Tag  
Approx 16x18mm  
L-Perforated 10.9  
January 26, 1984

Large Block Tag  
Approx 19x21mm  
Bullseye Perf. 11.2  
circa 1988

Overall Tag  
Dull Gum  
Bullseye Perf. 11.2  
circa 1990

PP Mottled Tag  
Shiny Gum  
Bullseye Perf. 11.2  
September, 29, 1993

President Truman (1884-1972) was under political pressure from members of the U.S. congress concerned about the Jewish vote in U.S. elections and convinced him to recognize Israel in order to maintain Jewish support in the coming election.



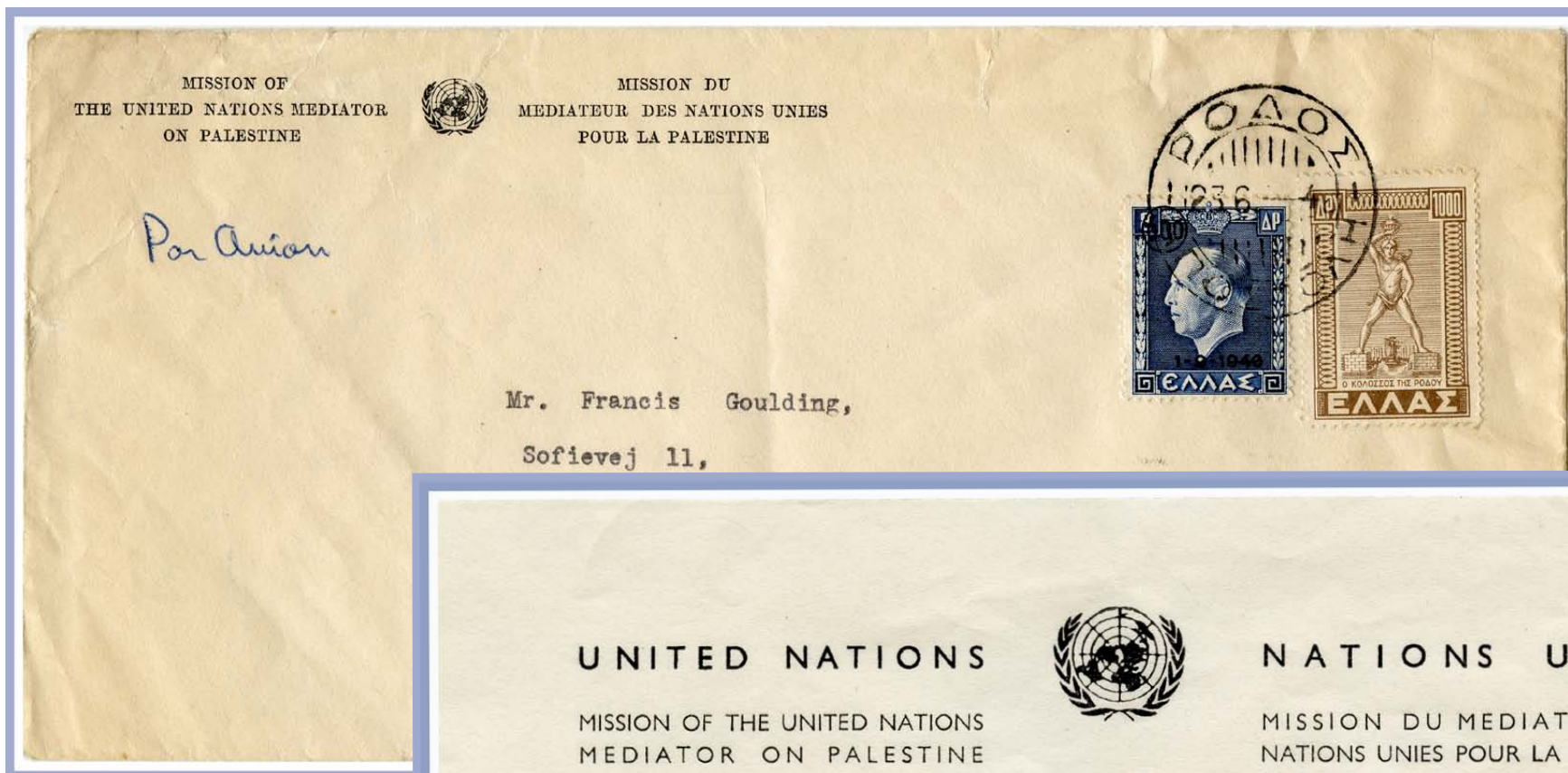
Golda Meir, Signatory



Publicity label for letters



20 May 1948



Palestine Mediator  
Rhodes, Greece  
to Hellerup, Denmark  
23 June 1948  
1600 drachma  
<20 grams  
airmail letter rate  
to Europe

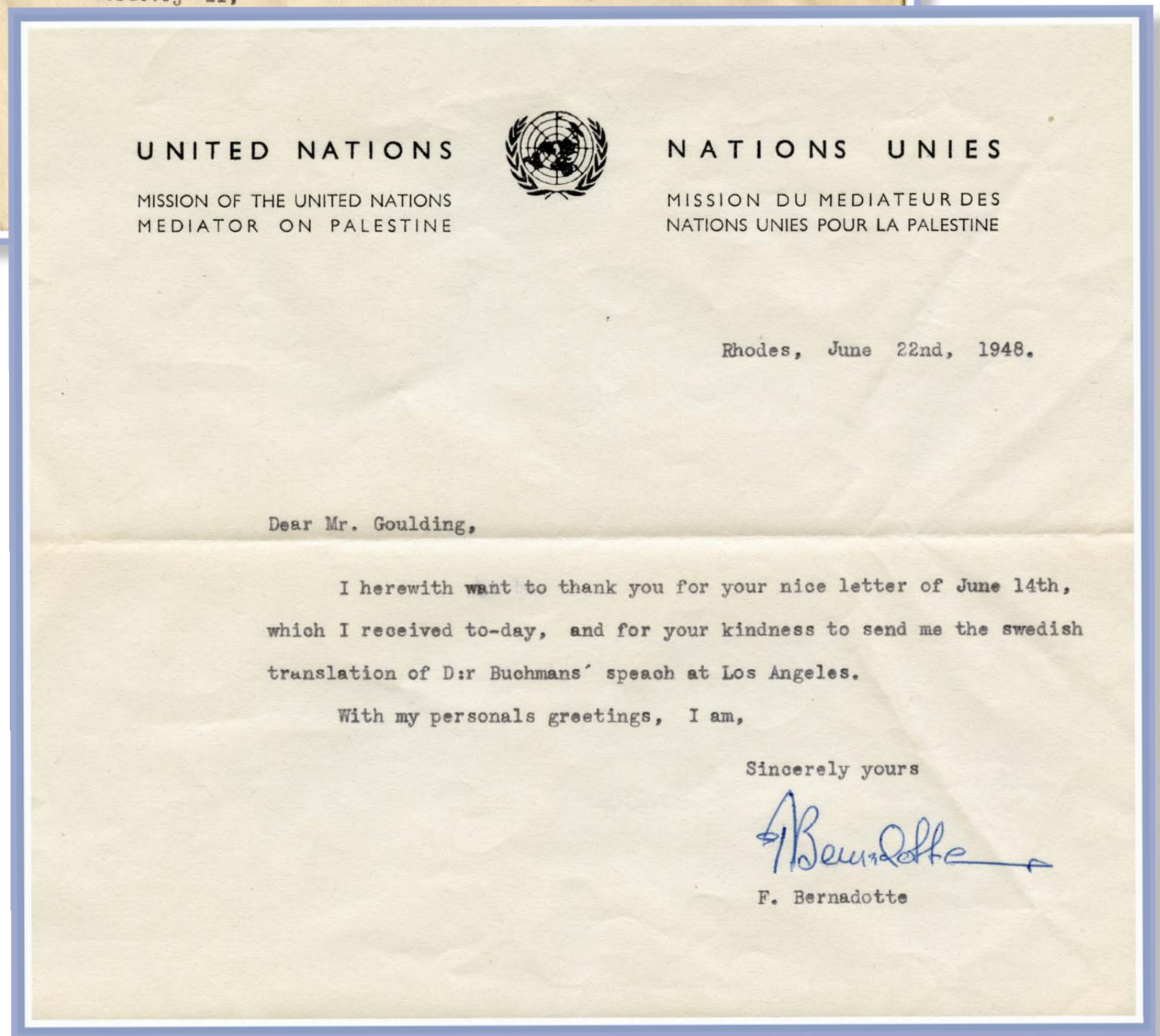
*Signed by Count  
Folke Bernadotte*

Secretary General Lie appointed Count Folke Bernadotte (1895-1948) of Sweden on 20 May as Palestine Mediator to aid the peace process.

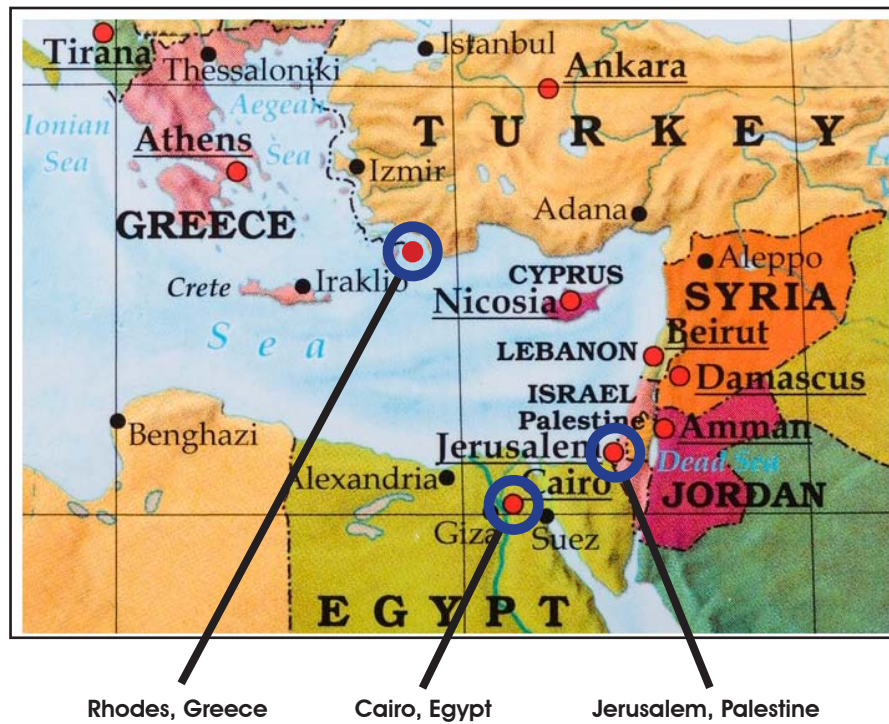


Count Folke Bernadotte  
*Booklet pane single*

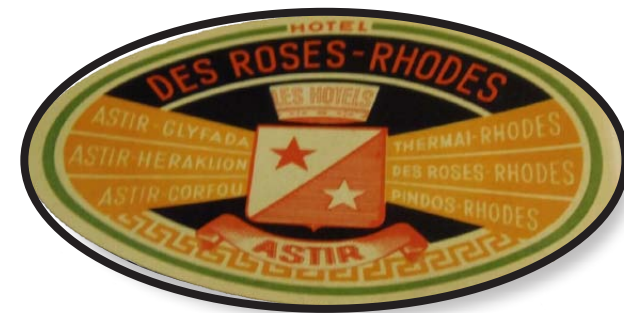
Count Bernadotte was a Swedish nobleman and diplomat who worked during WWII for the release of concentration camp internees.







Count Bernadotte's mediator office was initially located in Cairo, Egypt. Bunche moved the Mediator's office to the island of Rhodes, Greece. The negotiations were not secret, however, the island was remote enough that few reporters were on hand to submit articles to their news outlets as communication options for them were not readily available.



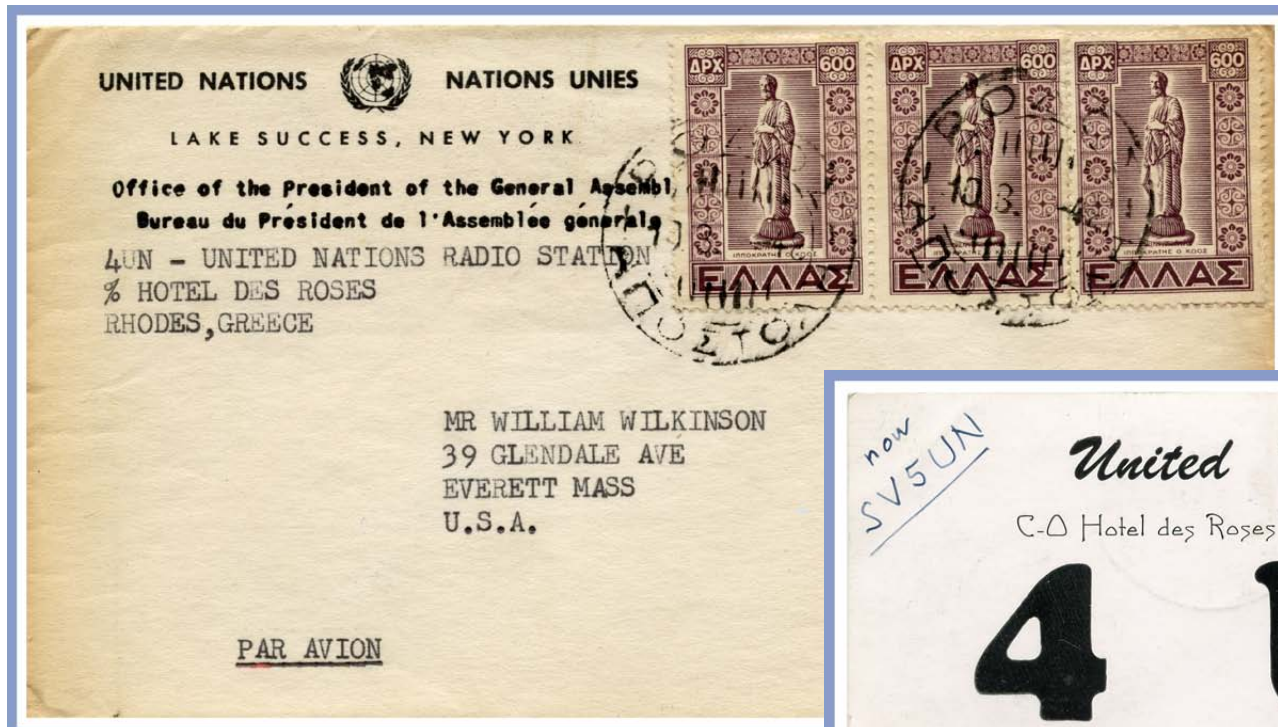
Scan of Self-adhesive luggage tag for hotel (reduced 50%)

The Hotel des Roses was Mediator headquarters as well as the site of negotiations. Initial service mail of the U.N. Mediator was sent using Lake Success, New York cornercard stationery with manuscript return address.



Palestine Mediator Headquarters, Rhodes, Greece to Great Neck, New York and forwarded to Silver Spring, Maryland  
20 July 1948, 1800 drachma, <20 grams airmail letter rate to USA

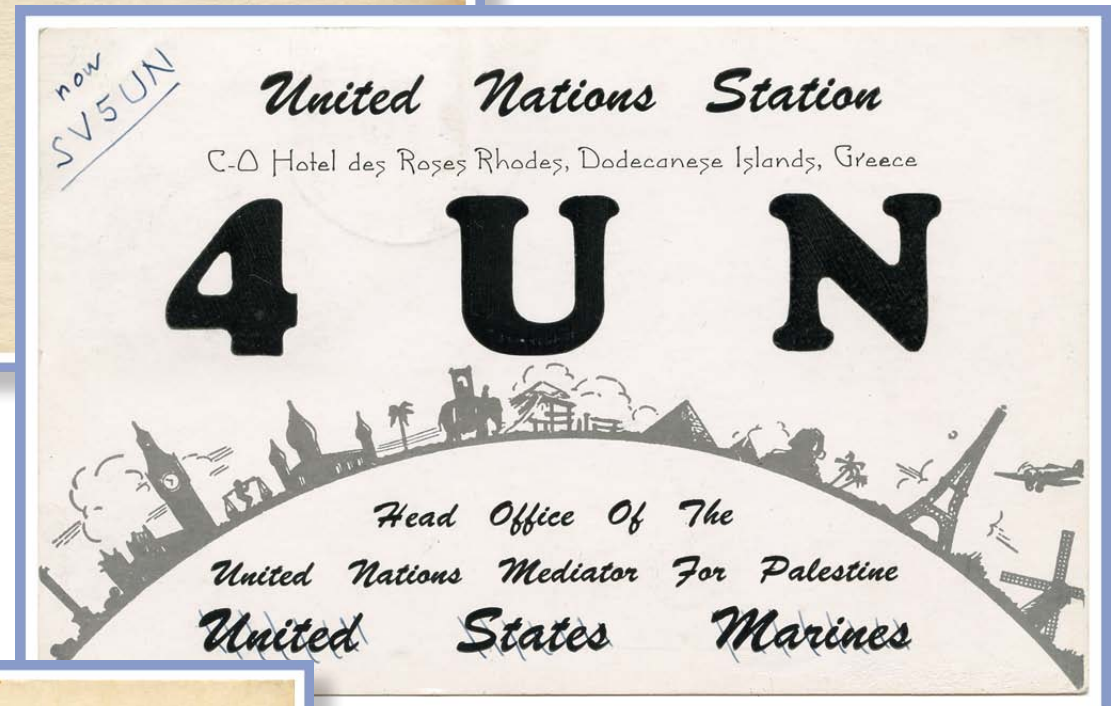




Three United Nations shortwave transmitters broadcast to the public. The initial station (4UN) was installed in the Mediator's Headquarters in the Hotel des Roses, Rhodes, Greece.

Rhodes, Greece to Everett, Massachusetts, 10 August 1949  
1800 drachma, <20 grams airmail letter rate to USA

Service mail from UN Radio used General Assembly cornercard stationery with typed return address.



Rhodes, Greece to London, England, 10 February 1949

HAIFA  
UNITED NATIONS AMATEUR RADIO STATION  
„HELLO FROM THE GANG“

# ZC6UN

RADIO W2PZM QSO ON May 2 1949 AT 0021 GMT  
UR SIGS 589 ON 14 MC FONE - CW  
REMARKS: Finally getting them out. 73's Gil  
QSL VIA K2UN OPR Jim/W30DG

Haifa sender, to Rochester, New York, 24 June 1949

QSL cards for broadcast reception were sent.

Jerusalem sender, to Irwin, Pennsylvania, 3 October 1949

UNITED NATIONS AMATEUR RADIO STATION  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
JERUSALEM

# ZC6UNJ

QSO ON JUNE 25 1949 AT 0258 GMT  
UR SIGS 58 ON 14 MC FONE - CW  
REMARKS: HPE CU TEN METERS FM AIR  
QSL VIA W3KXS OPR Jim/W30DG  
EX-YKRAF-SV5UN



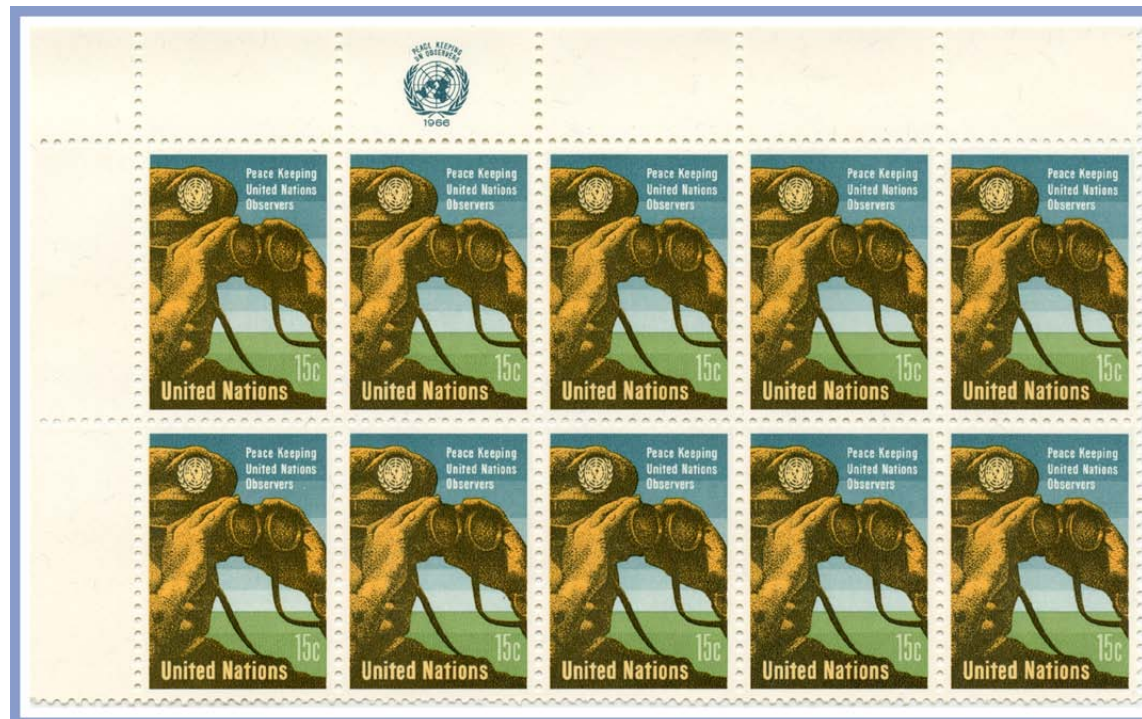
Security Council Resolution 50 (1948) called for a cessation of hostilities. To assist the Palestine Mediator in monitoring cease-fire and truce agreements, U.N. Secretary General Trygve Lie announced a group made up of diplomatic and military personnel with equipment from Belgium, France, Sweden and the United States for use in a supervisory capacity as observers.



Belgium



France



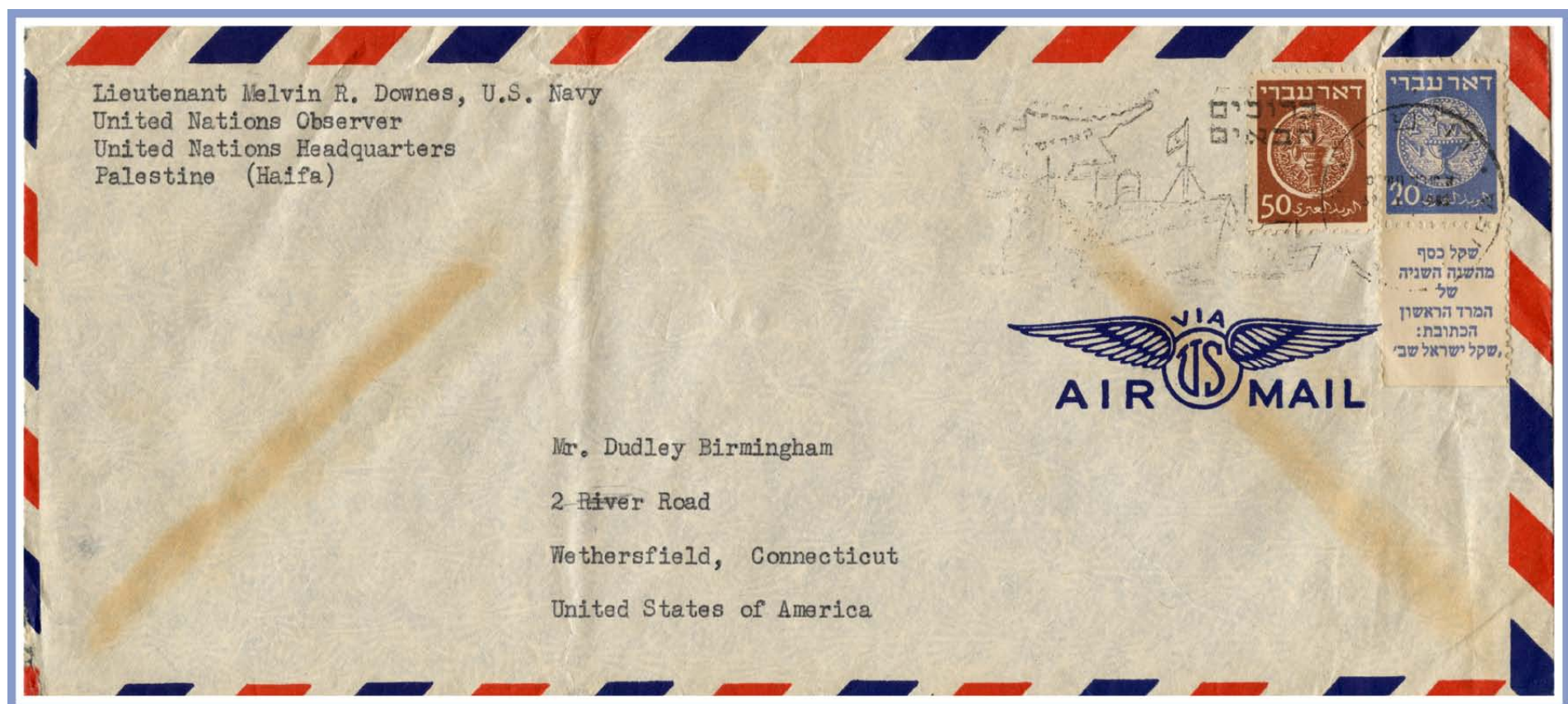
United Nations Observers, 15 cents domestic surface letter rate, Margin Inscription block of 10



Sweden

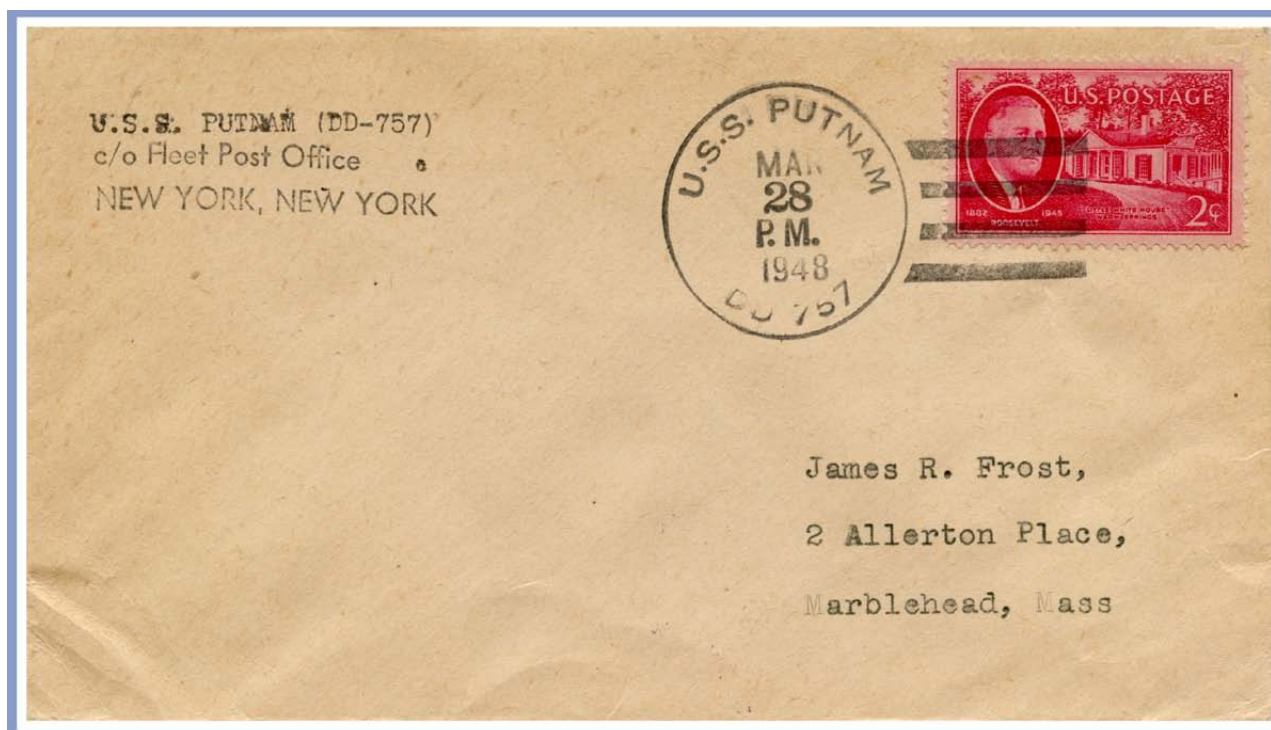


United States



United Nations Headquarters, Haifa, Palestine (Israel) to Wethersfield, Connecticut, January 1949, airmail letter rate 70 Mills  
Pictorial cancellation depicting ship commemorated the elimination of detention camps in Cyprus





U.S.S. Putnam (DD-757) to Marblehead, Massachusetts, 28 March 1948  
3 cents domestic surface letter rate

Three U.S. Navy destroyers were detailed to support the Palestine Mediator.



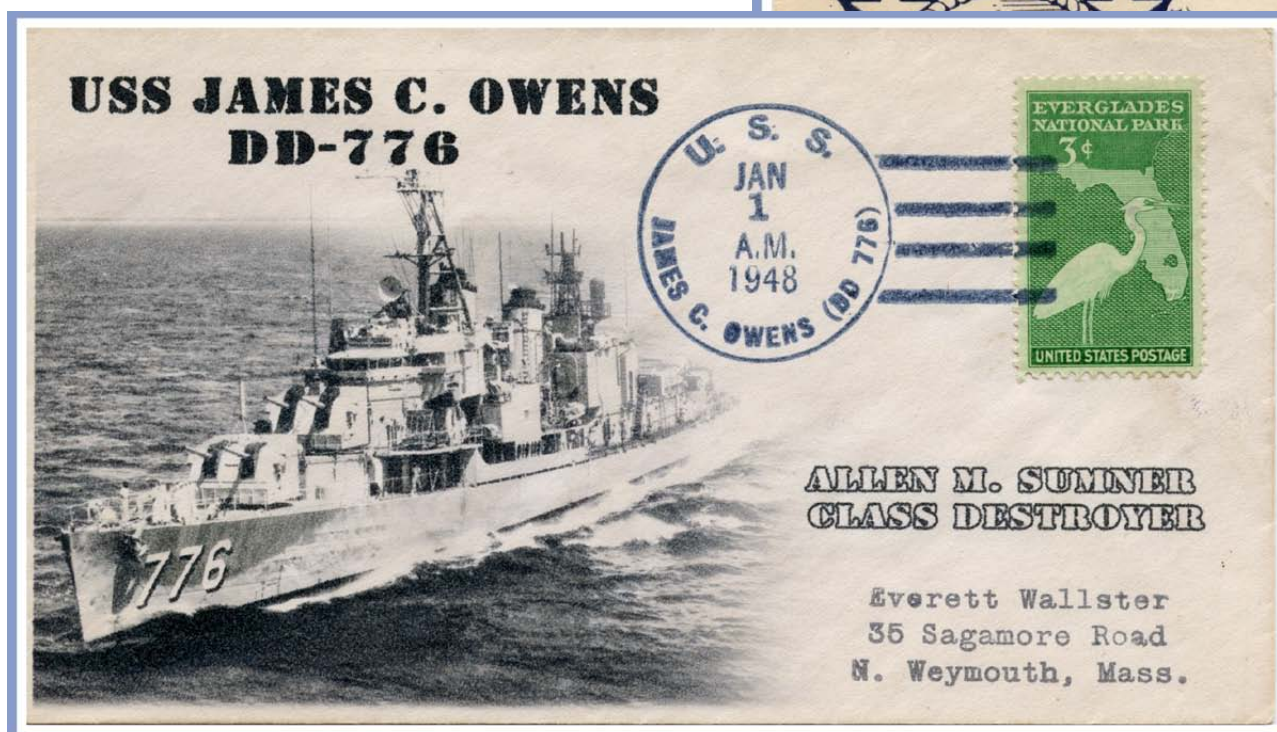
United Nations Flag

U.S.S. Putnam (DD-757) was assigned by the U.S. Navy and was the first U.S. Ship to fly the United Nations Flag.

During the Arab-Israeli War, the ships, U.S.S. Putnam, U.S.S. Compton (DD-705) and U.S.S. James C. Owens (DD-776) evacuated the United Nations Negotiation team from Haifa.



U.S.S. Compton (DD-705)  
to Centerville, Ohio, 27 October 1947  
3 cents domestic surface letter rate



U.S.S. James C. Owens (DD-776)  
to N. Weymouth, Massachusetts, 1 January 1948  
3 cents domestic surface letter rate





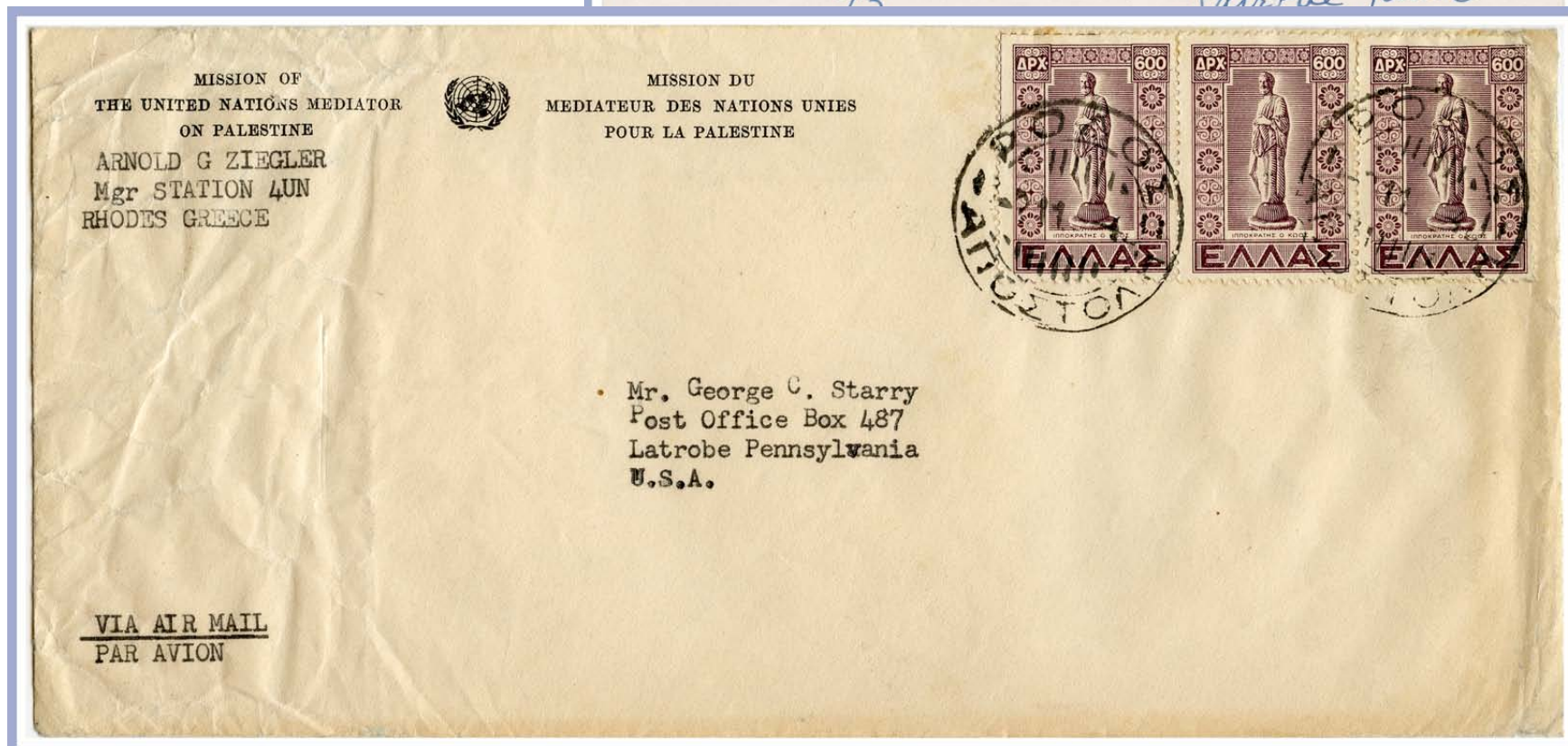
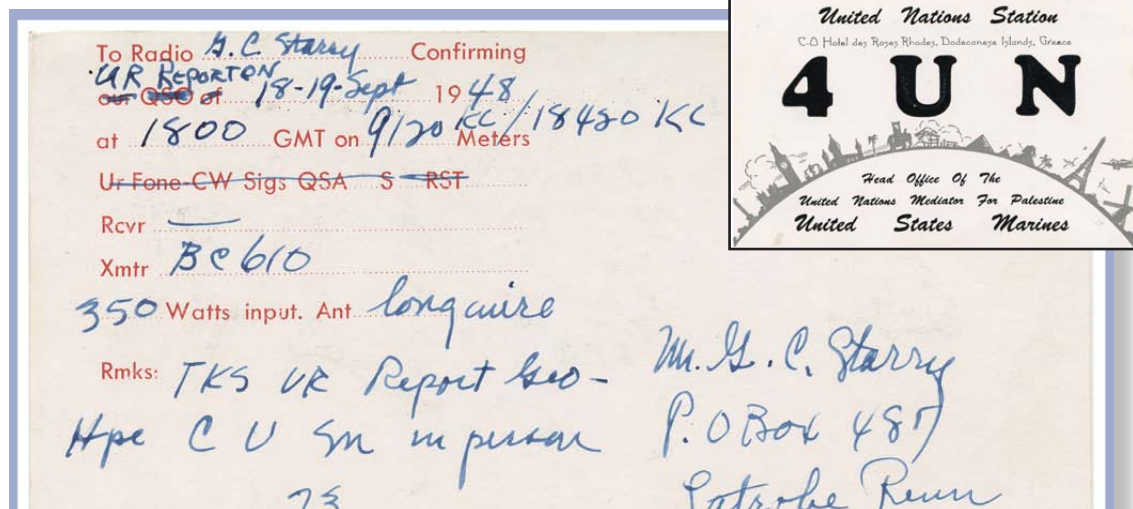
Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Lehi Extremist Group  
Plate number block with inscriptions

The 'Lehi' Jewish extremist group was founded by Avraham Stern (1907-1942). They set up a fake road checkpoint on a Jerusalem road and assassinated Colonel André Sérot of France and Count Folke Bernadotte on 17 September.



Avraham Stern  
Founder of 'Lehi'

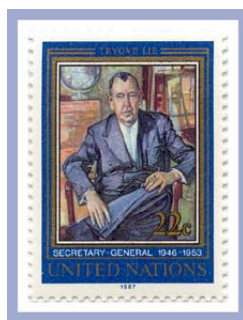
QSL card confirming receipt of September 18-19 radio broadcast of Count Folke Bernadotte's assassination on 17 September sent in cover Signed by Arnold Ziegler, station manager



Palestine Mediator / Radio Station Manager, Rhodes, Greece to Latrobe, Pennsylvania, 2 November 1948, 1800 drachma, airmail letter rate to USA

*Palestine Mediator official service mail acknowledging the 17 September radio broadcast*





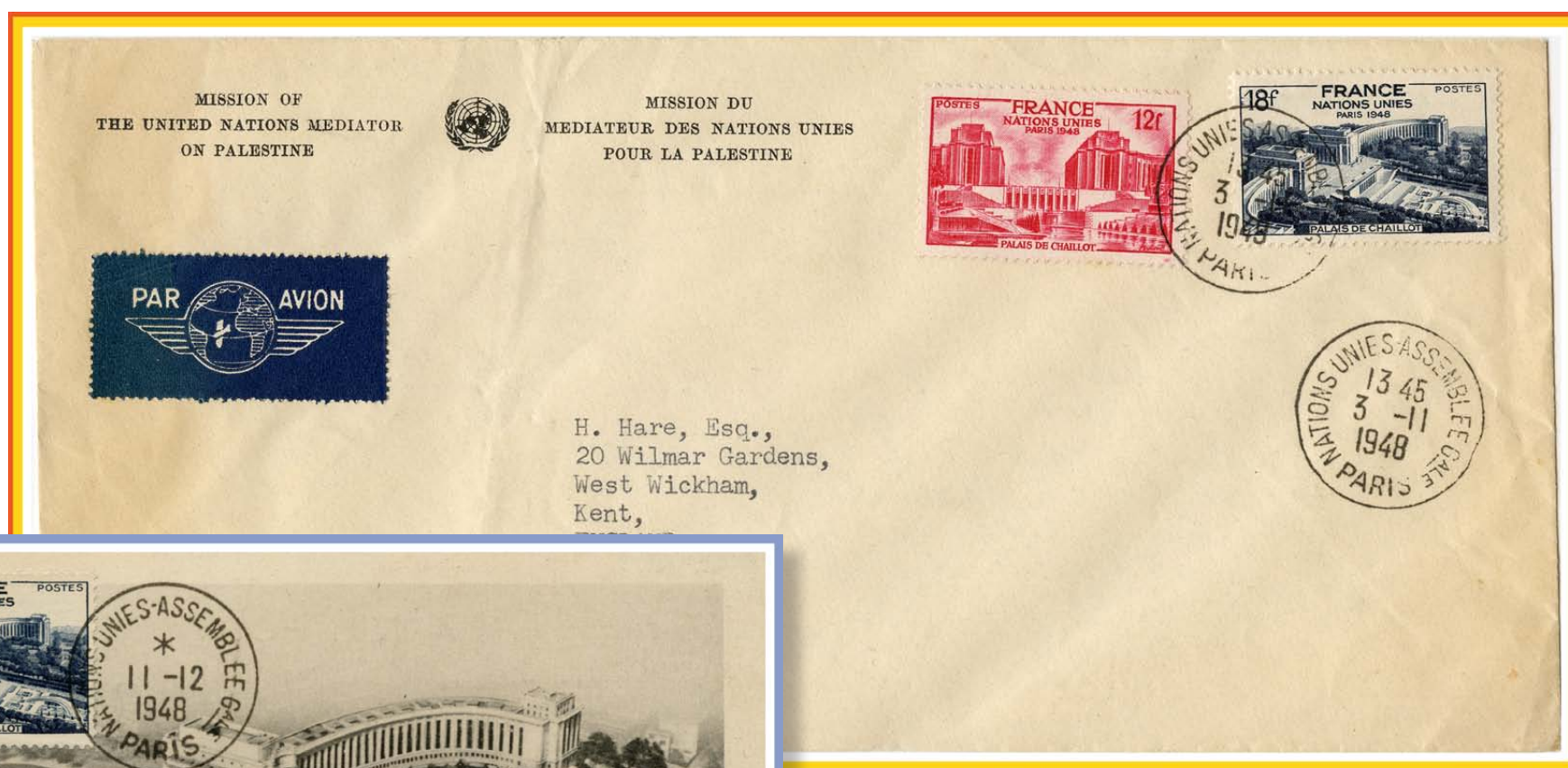
Trygve Lie  
UN General Secretary

After the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, Secretary General Trygve Lie (1896-1968) appointed Bernadotte's deputy, Ralph Bunche of the U.S., to succeed Bernadotte as the new Palestine Mediator on 19 September.

Ralph Bunche  
Swiss Franc and U.S. Dollar denominations



The third U.N. General Assembly took place in the Palais de Chaillot, Paris, France from 21 September to 12 December 1948. Ralph Bunche presented several peace initiatives which were rejected. Support for Palestinian refugees however, was approved.



Palestine Mediator, Paris, France to Kent, England, 3 November 1948  
18 Francs <25 grams, 12 Francs second 25 grams (30 Francs total)  
Hand cancel device (type 'a') with hour and minute designation  
in use 21 Sep - 15 Dec 1948

**Three reported examples of Mediator service mail  
from 1948 Paris General Assembly**

Maximum card depicting General Assembly site  
12 November 1948, Hand cancel device (type 'b')  
with star rather than hour and minute designation  
in use 21 Sep - 15 Dec 1948





The ongoing conflict forced many Arabs to abandon their homes and become displaced refugees. On 1 December, Graf Carton de Wiart of Belgium proposed an interim U.N. Relief for Palestine Refugees (UNRPR) organization based in Beirut, Lebanon.

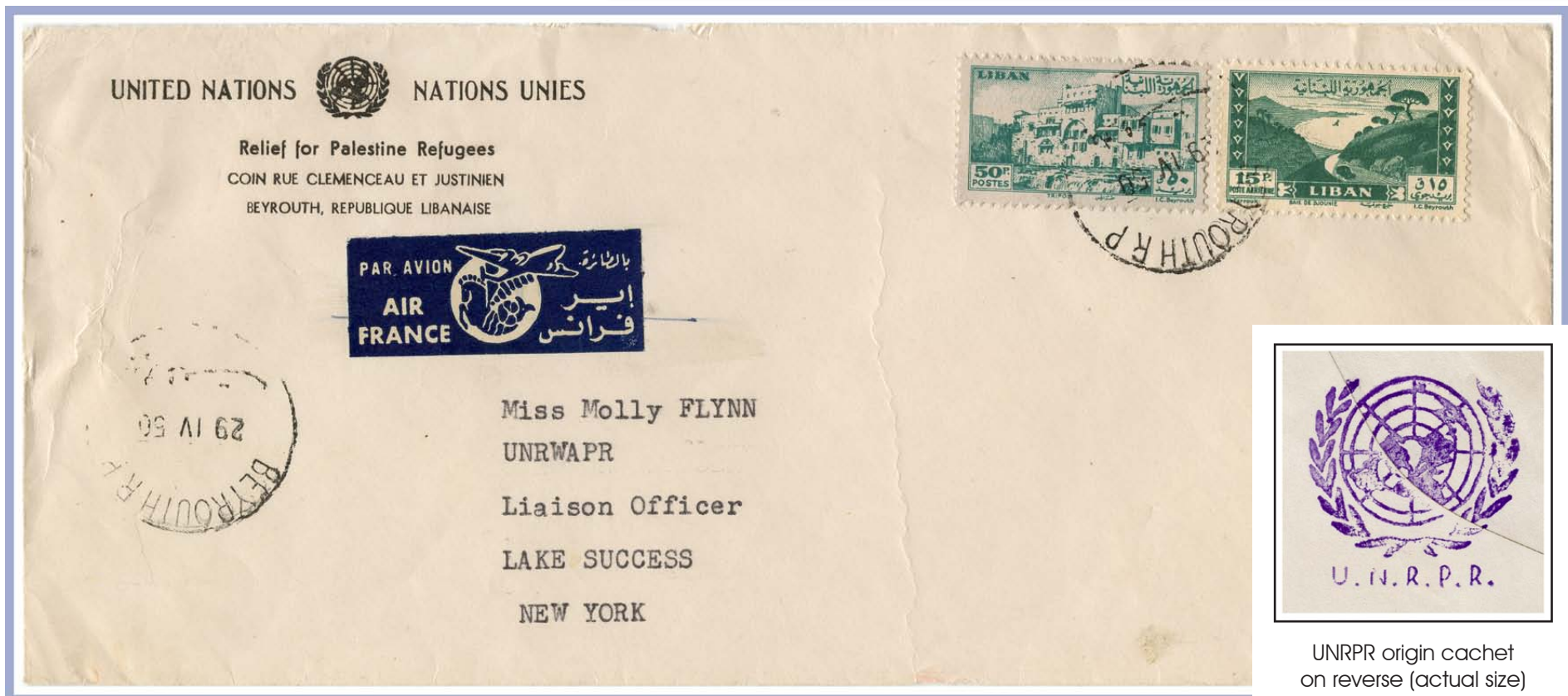
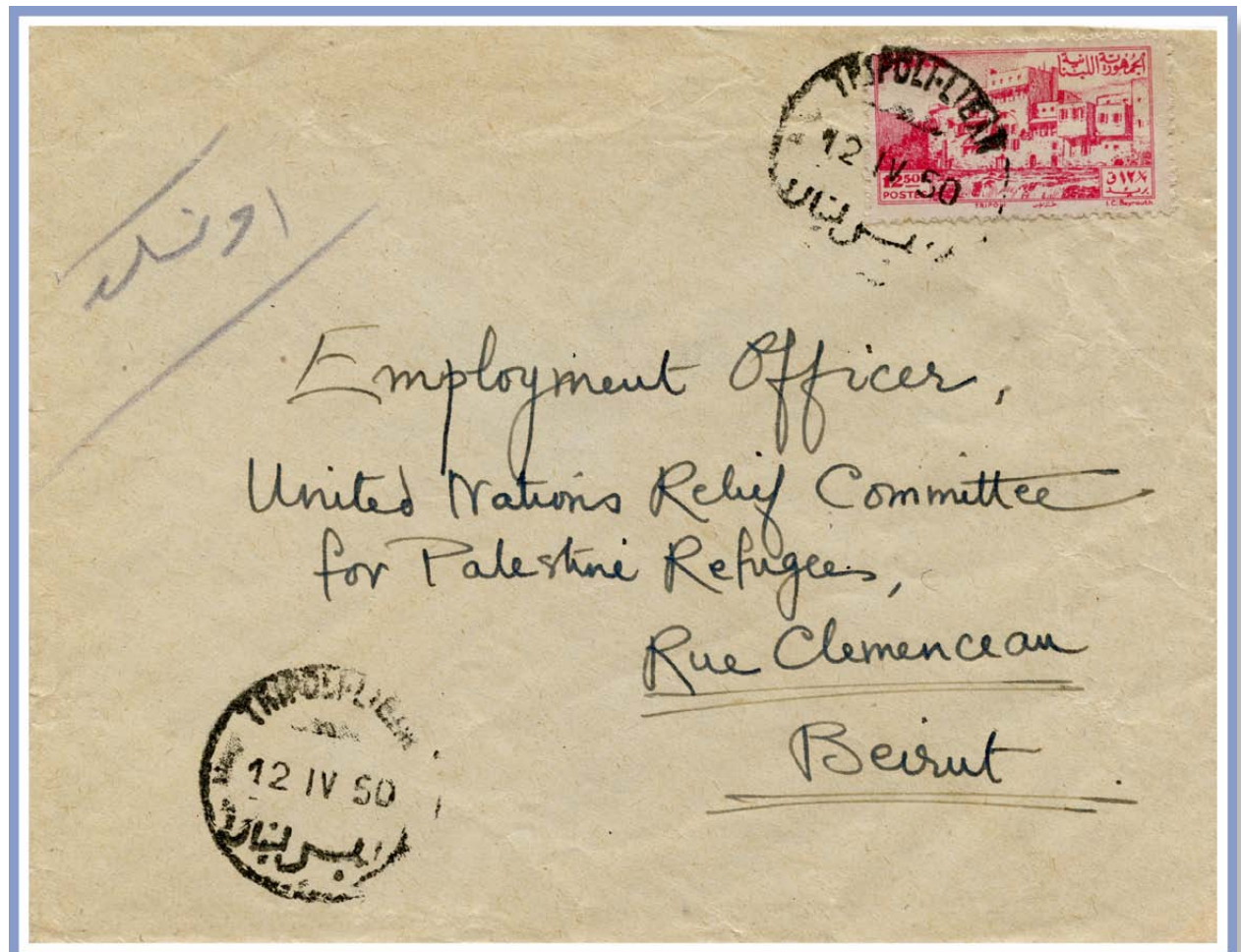


Graf Carton de Wiart  
(1880-1963)



UNRPR office in Beirut  
UNESCO building

Tripoli, Libya to Beirut, Lebanon  
12 April 1950  
12.50 piaster domestic letter rate

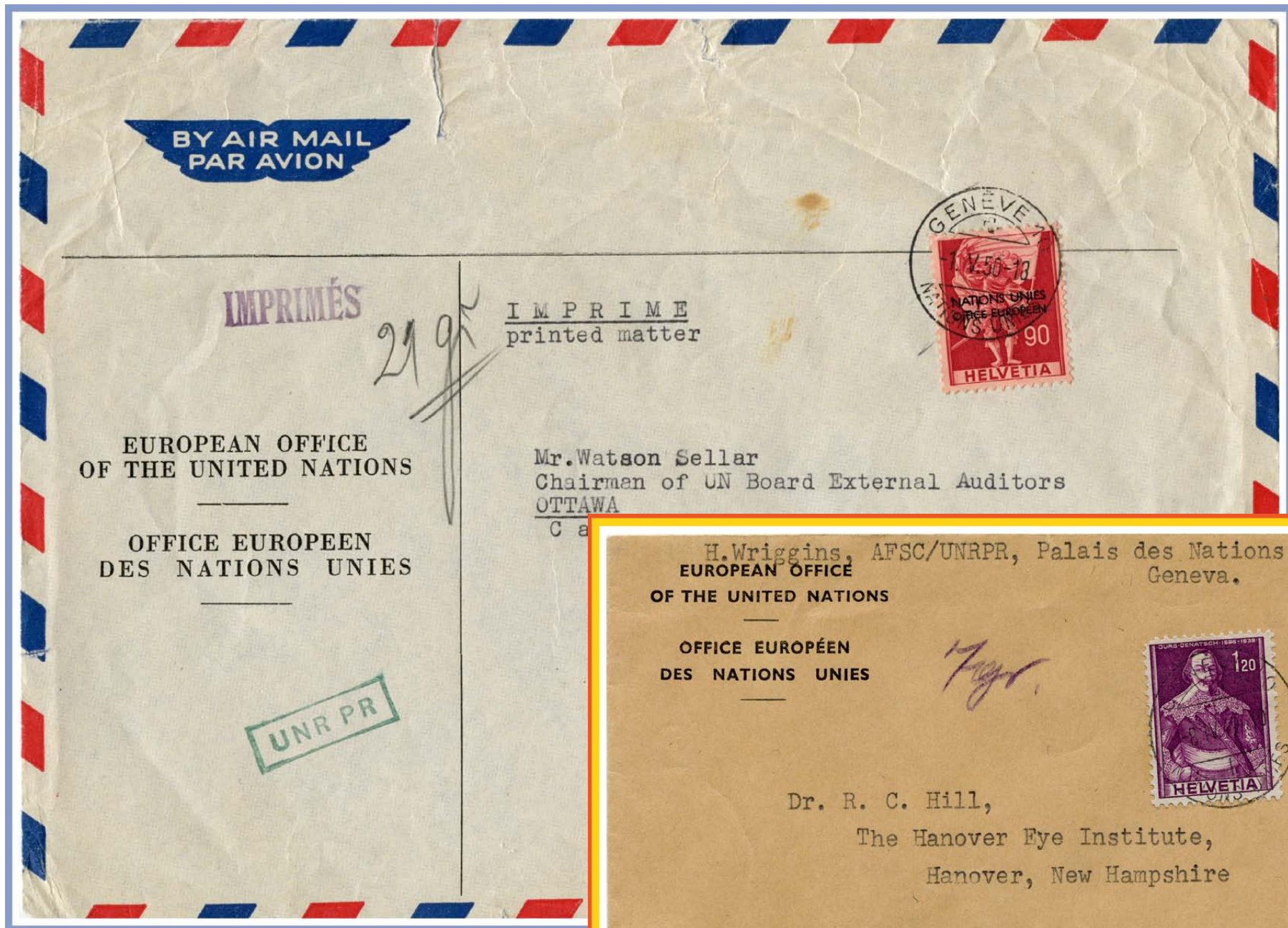


UNRPR origin cachet  
on reverse (actual size)

UNRPR, Beirut, Lebanon to U.N. Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWAPR) in Lake Success, N.Y., 29 April 1950, 25p <20 grams, 40p airmail fee (65 piaster total)  
**Four reported examples of UNRPR service mail from Beirut, only reported example with origin cachet**



The U.N. 3rd General Assembly authorized a temporary United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (UNRPR) office in Geneva at the U.N. European Headquarters in addition to the Beirut Office.



UNRPR, Geneva Office to Ottawa, Canada, 1 May 1950  
Foreign printed matter airmail, 21 grams, 90 centimes  
Boxed origin cachet for Relief for Palestine Refugees

***Mailed on last operational day of the UNRPR***

As the Special Committee met at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, the U.N. invited the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC = Quakers) and other non-governmental agencies to assist with refugee relief.

AFSC / UNRPR, Geneva, Switzerland to Hanover, New Hampshire, 8 April 1949  
40 centimes <20 grams, 2 x 40 centimes airmail fee per 5 grams (1.20 Francs total)  
(Howard Wriggins was the AFSC Liaison)

***Only reported example of AFSC service mail***





Ralph Bunche  
Palestine Mediator  
**Vertical mis-perforation**

Armistice negotiations were conducted by Ralph Bunche between February and July 1948. U.S.S. Hanson (DDR-832) was on station in Rhodes harbor for U.N. use as reliable communication equipment wasn't available.



U.S.S. Hanson (DDR-832) to Melrose Park, Illinois, 6 (no month indicated) 1948, 3¢ domestic letter rate



King Abdullah  
(1882-1951)  
Transjordan  
Occupation  
overprint

Armistices between Israel and Egypt, as well as Trans-Jordan, were both signed in Rhodes, Greece. The U.S.S. Hanson then returned Ralph Bunche to Beirut, Lebanon for armistice negotiations in the field with Lebanon and Syria. Negotiators included King Abdullah and Yitzhak Rabin (1922-1995).



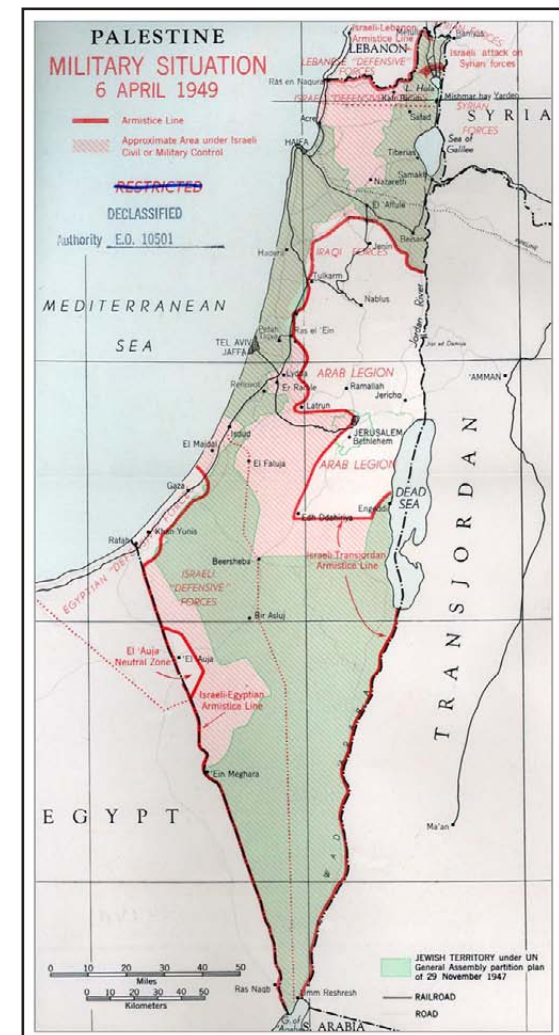
Yitzhak Rabin, Israel  
Negotiator with Egypt



Moshe Dayan  
(1915-1981) was  
signatory to the  
Trans-Jordan  
armistice.

Moshe Dayan, Israel  
Armistice Signatory

The U.N. terminated the position of  
Palestine Mediator on 11 August 1948.



1949 Armistice boundaries (in red)



A permanent organization for the Palestinian refugee relief program was introduced in 1949. The new Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWAPR) had an office in Beirut, Lebanon with headquarters located in Amman, Jordan.



Palestine refugees

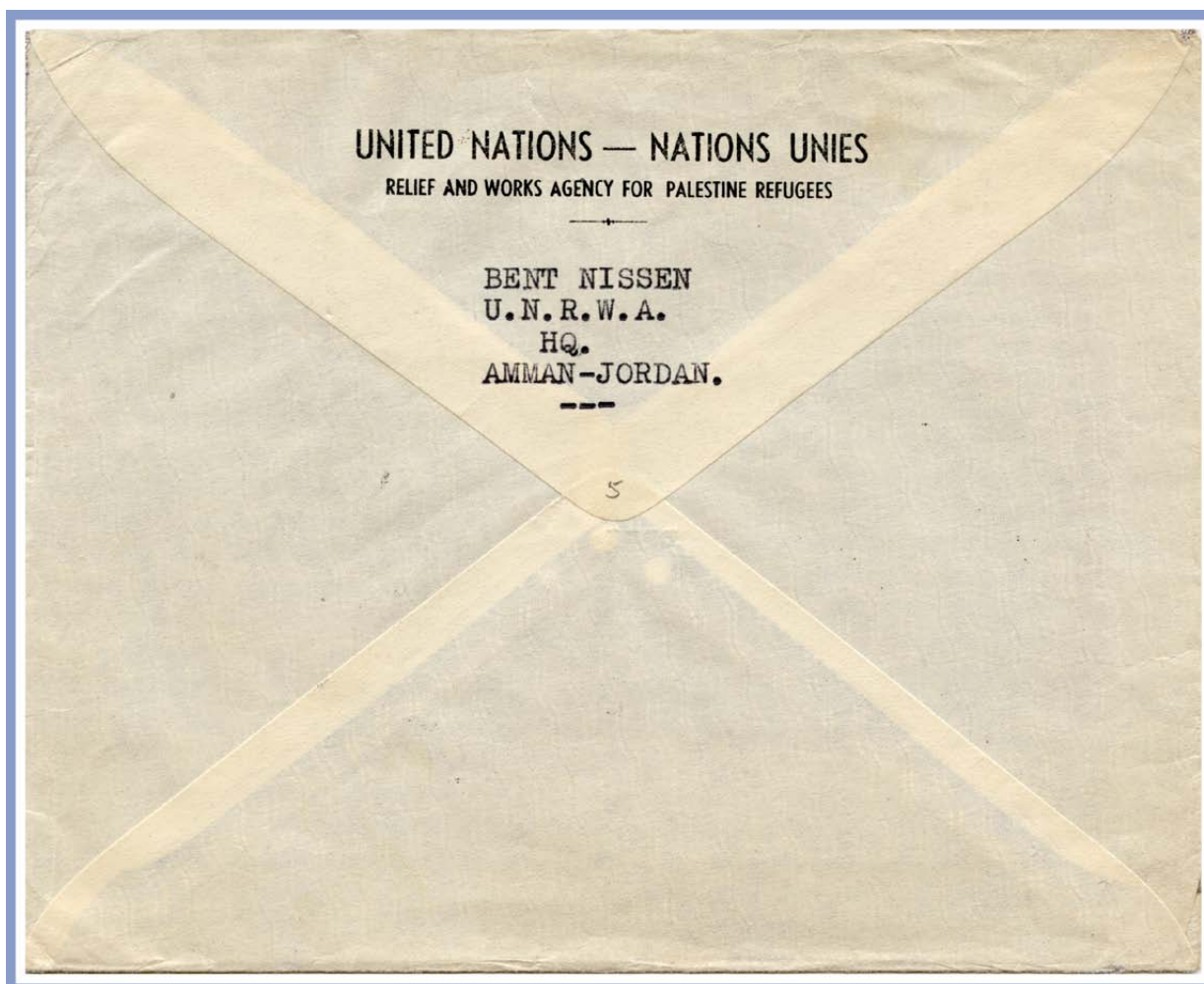


Beirut, Lebanon to Los Angeles, California, 19 October 1950, 65 piaster foreign airmail rate

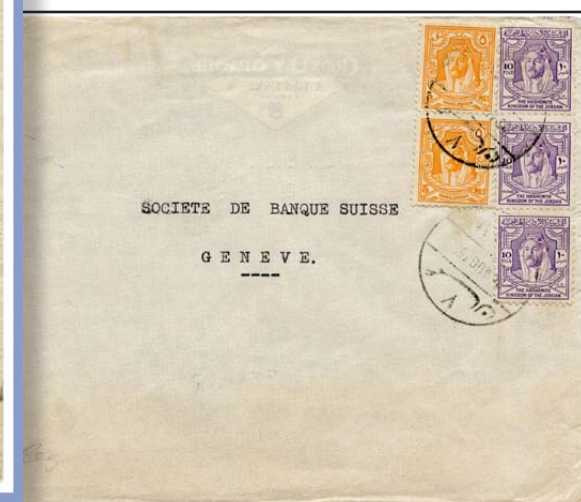
The International Refugee Organization (IRO) supports refugees of other nationalities.



Right overprint has long 'R' in 'Pour'

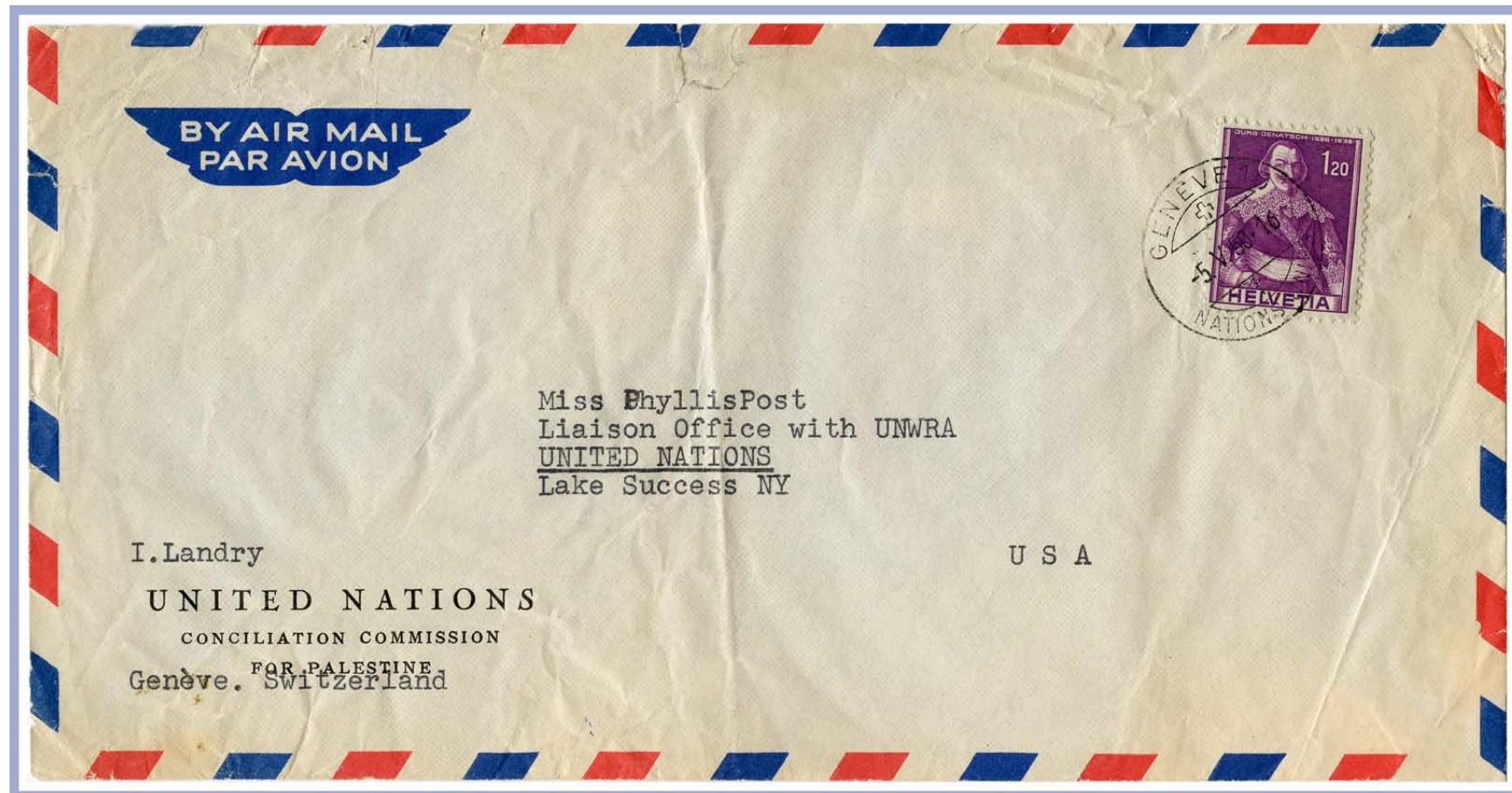


Amman, Jordan to Geneva, Switzerland, 24 August 1952, 40 piaster surface letter rate to Europe



Reduced 50% copy of obverse





UNCCP, Geneva, Switzerland to Lake Success, N.Y., 5 May 1950, 40 rappen <20 grams, 2 x 40 rappen airmail fee per 5 grams (1.20 Fr total)  
Hand cancel device with un-shaded cross and long 'l' in lower semicircle,

**Four reported examples of Conciliation Commission service mail**



The Conciliation Commission, formed by UN Resolution 194, absorbed the Mediator's duties for agreements, disputes and residual issues. Its headquarters were in the Jerusalem Government House as of 24 January 1949. The commission members, France, Turkey and the United States, ceased support operations in 1951.

On 11 May 1949, the day before Israel signed the Lausanne Protocol, the General Assembly approved Israel's admission, referring to the Resolutions 181 and 194. The resolution was adopted with 37 votes to 12. The admission was approved despite the quiet annexation of large parts of territory, which in the UN Partition Plan had been assigned to the Arab state, including the ports of Haifa and Jaffa, Galilee, and the areas around the West Bank, including West Jerusalem.



UNRPR was absorbed into UNRWAPR on 1 May 1951. **Conciliation Commission ceased operations on 31 December 1951** and many of its tasks were assumed by the UNRWAPR.



Commemorative celebrating the formation of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWAPR) for Palestine Refugees

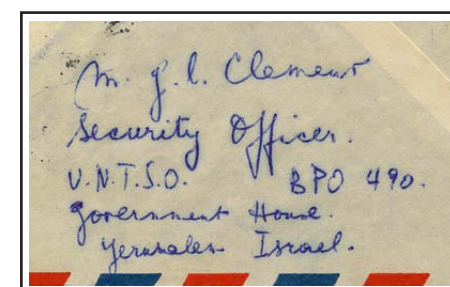


UNRWAPR office, Beirut, Lebanon to London, England, 11 January 1951, 35 piaster foreign airmail letter rate

Some responsibilities were also assumed by the U.N. Treaty Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in late 1951. Peace efforts continue to this day as the **final resolution of the land dispute has yet to be realized.**



Jerusalem, Palestine to Chiny sur Semois, Belgium, 7 June 1952, 40 fils foreign airmail letter rate  
From UNTSO Security Officer, BPO 490, Government House, Jerusalem, Israel  
**via the Jordanian branch post office in Jerusalem**



UNTSO return address  
In manuscript  
on reverse of cover



UNTSO Peace-keepers  
15¢ domestic letter rate