July 27, 1948

SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

PALESTINE  The Chief Irgun political officer has informed our Consul General in Jerusalem that the Israeli Government is determined to deliberate all opposition and is therefore expected to launch an attack on the Irgun forces this week. He indicated that Irgun will reply with force if necessary. This officer added that while Irgun opposed the internationalisation of Jerusalem, it would not oppose this move by force.

ITALIAN COLONIES  The British are not favorably disposed toward our proposal that the General Assembly be asked to defer final action on the Italian colonies for another year. The British pointed out that this would leave them with a heavy military and financial burden for another year and that the delay would give nationalist elements in the colonies an opportunity for further agitation. The French fear that the USSR might use this proposal in an effort to gain entry into the administration of the former Italian colonies.

GERMANY  The Soviets are reported to be taking unilateral action in supplying fuel and power to certain factories and shops in the western sectors of Germany. This move is seen as evidence that the Soviets are feeling the pinch of the blockades and need certain supplies from the west or that they are endeavoring to use this device to gain control over key industries in the western sectors of the city.

Our representatives in London have reached considerable agreement on a line of action in the Berlin situation to include (1) a brief presentation to Molotov requesting an interview with Stalin, (2) an oral approach by the three Western Ambassadors to Stalin on the basis of an agreed paper and (3), in the event this course fails, the presentation of a strong note concluding with the proposal that the Berlin problem be referred to the United Nations.