DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

September 13, 1948

SECRET

SUMMARY OF TELEGRAM

GERMANY

Ambassador Smith has been instructed to request an interview with Stalin and Molotov on the question of Berlin. They are to present an agreed side memo pointing out the differences which developed during the recent Berlin negotiations and to request the Soviet government to send fresh instructions to its military commander. If the Soviets agree to send new instructions, the meetings of the military governors are to be restricted to three days. If the Soviets refuse or fail to give a clear answer, the western representatives are to refrain from any further discussion and report back to their governments.

PALESTINE

Count Bernadotte has informed our Embassy in Cairo that he believes the Arab attitude toward the Palestine problem has changed for the better. While the road to agreement is still difficult, he feels there is now less danger of hostilities. Bernadotte is convinced that the Palestine question must be brought before the General Assembly. While he does not feel the truce will break down before the General Assembly sessions, he considers that failure to reach agreement in Paris will lead to the collapse of the truce.

We have informed our Embassy in Cairo that while no public funds are now available for the relief of the Arab refugees, we have had considerable success in our approaches to various private bodies for aid in meeting this problem. We are now waiting for specific recommendations on this question from Bernadotte and the new refugee administrator in the Middle East.

SCANDINAVIA

Norwegian officials have informed our Embassy in Stockholm that they were pleasantly surprised with the results of the recent Scandinavian conference. They found the Swedish stand on neutrality not nearly as intransigent as they had feared and felt that the Danish officials showed they had come a long way toward realizing their position vis-à-vis the western powers since last spring.

DECLASSIFIED

By L.D. Doc. 243, Dec. 4, 1958
State Dept. Cable, Jan. 12, 1979
By H.L. 1
1/13/69