September 11, 1948

SUMMARY OF TELEGRAM

MOSCOW In response to his request for an interview with Stalin and Molotov, Ambassador Smith has been informed that Stalin is outside Moscow on a vacation which cannot be interrupted for the purpose of further discussions on the Berlin situation. The three western representatives immediately requested an interview with Molotov alone. They are hopeful they may be able to see him this afternoon but are pessimistic as to the outcome of the discussions.

PARIS Ambassador Douglas has been given a statement fully authorizing him to represent the Secretary in the CPN meeting on the Italian colonies, and, within the limit of his instructions, to make decisions on behalf of the US Government. Douglas feels, as a result of yesterday’s meeting, that the whole session may turn on this single issue. He considers it quite probable that this problem has been raised because Tusini does not have full powers to represent the Soviet Government.

CAIRO The Secretary General of the Arab League has informed the Embassy Cairo that while no definite decision has yet been taken, the Arab states have decided not to discuss any settlement of the Palestine problem until the right of the Arab refugees to return to their homes has been acknowledged by the United Nations and accepted by Israel.