

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Secret

*[Handwritten annotation:
Top Secret]*

HaKirya, December 4, 1949

To
Mr. Moshe Sharett
New York

t/a/2771

Dear Moshe,

Zalman Lief told me today that a plan has been put in place to expel Arab residents in a significant number of places, mostly in the Galilee. Here are the facts:

1. The villages whose residents are to be expelled are: Fassouta, Tarshiha, Mi'ilya, Jish (including residents of the village of Bir'am who have settled there), Hurfish, Rihaniya – these villages are in the Galilee, as well as Majdal and Zakariya (near Beit Natif).
2. The number of individuals to be expelled amounts to roughly ten thousand.
3. The expulsion, or rather, the forcible transfer to other locales, is required for security reasons.
4. The Prime Minister has approved the plan, but will not implement it without your consent and without the consent of Mr. Kaplan (this operation will cost one million Israeli pounds, including the expenses of resettling the expelled residents).
5. Lief says the plan is to be implemented “without unnecessary brutality” (at a different point in the same conversation, he said: “without particular cruelty”).
6. The plan will not be implemented before your return and without your consent.

In a conversation with Lief, I expressed a strong negative reaction due to foreign policy reasons. I believe you should be aware of the plan at this point, even if its fate remains, at this time, undecided. I add that most of the individuals slated for expulsion in the Galilee are Christians, Druze (in Hurfish) or Circassian (in Rihaniya).

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

W. Eytan