

Statement by the Chairman of the People's Council

Sitting 2 of the People's Council

5 May 1948 (26 Nissan 5708)
JNF Building, Tel Aviv

The Chairman, D. Ben-Gurion: While the situation in Tel Aviv during the last few days has allowed us to forget that we are still at war, this meeting reminds us that the fighting continues. Unfortunately, the members from Jerusalem who were unable to get here yesterday cannot be here today either. At present, the only way to leave Jerusalem is by air. Due to the situation at the Etzion Bloc, where there are many casualties, the planes were needed there to transport medical supplies and evacuate the wounded. Consequently, we could not provide the Council members with transport here. We hope the situation will improve by tomorrow, although there is no guarantee of this. We live under abnormal conditions. Yesterday it was the Etzion Bloc; who knows what will happen tomorrow.

Thus, to our regret, we cannot begin our work, since the members from Jerusalem demand, quite rightly, that we not begin without them. Twelve members, almost a third of the People's Council, are involved. You all have before you the material which was to have been debated today. After discussing whether to hold our deliberations today or not, we concluded that the honor of the Council and our colleagues in Jerusalem requires us to refrain from beginning without them. We therefore ask that the members present take the material home for study.

I hesitate to say that we will meet tomorrow, although the chances for tomorrow are better than they were last night, but I am uncertain about that too. Thus, the sitting of the Council is postponed indefinitely. As soon as we know that the members from Jerusalem are coming we will inform you and assemble the Council without delay. We regret this very much, but far graver events are currently taking place. I hereby close this brief sitting.