

**Middle East - Suez story No
19-24: Middle East - Suez
story No 19-24 - 24**

HS L 179:112



National Library
of Sweden

Suez story - 19

(as put together by D.H.)

3 Sept. 56

Code cable from Gen. Burns to D.H.

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TO: SECRETARY GENERAL
FROM: BURNS, JERUSALEM
DATE: 3 SEPTEMBER 1956
NUMBERS: UNTSD 780, 781 AND 783

HAD INTERVIEW WITH BEN GURION AT 900 HOURS GMT TODAY ON QUESTIONS LISTED IN YOUR LETTER TO HIM 13 AUGUST AND ALSO QUESTION OF PATROLS REFERRED TO SECTION FOUR YOUR LETTER 28 AUGUST. REGRET TO REPORT HE RIGIDLY MAINTAINED HIS PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITION ON EVERY POINT, SPECIFICALLY:

1. RE DISMANTLING OF FORTIFICATIONS AT HAGOVIM AND SUSITA, HE SAID THAT APART FROM LEGAL POSITION ON WHICH TEKOAH HAD ADVISED, ISRAEL COULD NOT COMPLY WITH MY REQUEST, IN VIEW OF SYRIAN ACTS OF VIOLATION OF ARTICLE ONE, AND DANGERS PRESENTED BY THEIR ACQUIRING ARMS FROM RUSSIAN SOURCES. TYPICAL OF CONVERSATION WAS HIS ASSERTION THAT HE WAS READY TO LEAVE IT TO MY CONSCIENCE TO DECIDE WHETHER SETTLERS WERE SAFE FROM SYRIAN ATTACKS. IF I COULD ASSURE HIM THAT THEY WERE, I COULD GO AND DISMANTLE FORTIFICATIONS.

2. HE REFUSED TO ALLOW MEETING OF MAC AT EL AUJA, STATING THAT ARTICLES 8 AND 10(2) WERE IN SUSPENSION, OWING TO EGYPT'S REFUSAL OF PASSAGE OF ISRAELI SHIPPING THROUGH SUEZ CANAL, AND NO EGYPTIANS COULD BE ALLOWED IN EL AUJA AREA. REPEATED WILLINGNESS TO HAVE MAC MEETINGS ELSEWHERE.

3. BECAUSE ARTICLE 8 WAS NON-OPERATIVE, HE SAW NO NEED FOR OBSERVERS IN EL AUJA DL, AND SEEMED TO IMPLY HE WOULD ASK FOR THEIR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL.

4. HE STILL SAID HE SAW NO NEED FOR AN OBSERVATION POST IN THE LAKE TIBERIAS AREA ON ISRAELI SIDE. WHEN THERE WAS NEED WE COULD DISCUSS IT AGAIN:

5. HE WOULD NOT AGREE TO UNTSO MARKING DL AROUND GAZA STRIP BUT OFFERED

TO HAVE THE LINE MARKED ON ISRAELI SIDE WITH UNMOS AND EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT. WOULD ALSO BE GLAD IF EGYPTIANS WOULD MARK ALONG THEIR SIDE.

6. I POINTED OUT NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OCCURING FROM PATROLS AND POSTS ALONG DL BEING TOO CLOSE TOGETHER AND SAID THAT A FRESH START SHOULD BE MARKED BY SOME CONCRETE ARRANGEMENTS, NAMELY A COMBINATION OF MARKING OF THE LINE AND WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS IN DAYLIGHT FROM 500 METER ZONE ON EITHER SIDE, TO "BUTTRESS" THE CEASEFIRE ASSURANCES. HE WOULD NOT GO BEYOND HIS PREVIOUS ASSURANCE THAT ISRAELIS WOULD NOT PATROL UNLESS PROTECTION OF THEIR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS NEEDED IT. THIS ASSURANCE AS INTERPRETED BY LOCAL ISRAELI ARMY COMMANDERS HAS PROVED OF SMALL AVAIL.

7. PREMIER APPARENTLY MUCH AGGRIEVED YOU HAD NOT LET HIM KNOW, AS ALLEGEDLY PROMISED, RESULTS OF TALKS IN CAIRO. HE SAID IT WAS EASIER TO REPORT TO SECURITY COUNCIL ISRAEL INTERFERENCE WITH FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF OBSERVERS THAN FAILURE OF TALKS IN CAIRO.

8. ASKED WHAT HE WOULD BE READY TO DO IF PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS RESULTED IN FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION THROUGH SUEZ CANAL FOR ISRAEL, HE SAID ISRAEL WOULD THEN BE READY DISCUSS ARTICLES 7 AND 8 AGAIN. ALL ARTICLES MUST BE IMPLEMENTED BY EGYPT BUT MAIN THING WAS ARTICLE ONE. SHOULD EGYPT CHANGE HER ATTITUDE, ISRAEL WOULD DISCUSS WITH GOODWILL.

9. PREMIER ALSO DROPPED TWO OMINOUS HINTS. ONE WAS THAT OBSERVATION POSTS ALONG DL OF GAZA STRIP HAD BEEN USELESS - WHICH MAY INDICATE DECISION TO REFUSE THEIR CONTINUATION AFTER 31 OCTOBER. ANOTHER HINT WAS THAT APART FROM THESE OBSERVATION POSTS TO WHICH ISRAEL HAD AGREED, OBSERVERS HAD NO RIGHT TO USE RADIO IN ISRAEL. ONLY LEGAL RADIO WAS THAT AT

AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THIS MAY INDICATE REQUEST TO CEASE USING RADIO JEEPS AND LITTLE PONES AS CONTRARY TO ISRAEL LAWS.

10. REUR 460 I TAKE IT YOU WISH ME TO PREPARE REPORT ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND AM PUTTING THIS IN HAND: PLEASE ADVISE.

11. IT APPEARED FROM WHAT BEN GURION SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED YOUR LETTER 28 AUGUST. IT MAY BE THAT THE ARGUMENTS THEREIN WILL PERSUADE HIM BUT I AM NOT HOPEFUL THAT HE WILL CHANGE HIS STAND REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH IN SECTIONS 2, 3 OR 4 OF THIS LETTER.