

**Middle East - Suez story No
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30 April - 17 May 57

Kidron, M.R. (Perm. Mission of Israel to the
U.N.)

- 2 letters to D.H.
- 1 letter from D.H.

New York
4/5/57

UNATIONS GENEVA

921 SECRETARY GENERAL FROM CORDIER.

I TRANSMIT BELOW TEXT LETTER DATED 30 APRIL BROUGHT TO-DAY BY KIDRON:

"Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

In reply to your letter of 15 April 1957 Mrs Meir instructs me to say that the Jerusalem post report of her speech delivered in Hebrew in Tel Aviv on Saturday, 13 April, was not a full and accurate record of what she said. In describing the assumptions on the basis of which Israel withdrew its forces from the Gaza strip, Mrs Meir referred not only to the understanding reached with the United States Government, but also to international sentiment prevailing at the United Nations. In this connection she said that by permitting the Egyptians to return to the strip and with such rapidity, the United Nations authorities had in her view acted out of accord with the spirit obtaining at the United Nations. The fact that ^{at} the General Assembly session of 1 March ^{and} at that of 4 March the Secretary-General did not say publicly that he considered the Israel assumptions, and the hopes and expectations expressed by the United States and France and others, to be unfounded so far as his own authority was concerned, naturally gave the impression that he was prepared to operate accordingly in the Gaza area. Moreover both the Israel and the United States statements made reference in this connection to the Secretary-General's report of 22 February. Mrs. Meir added that she felt such an interpretation would be upheld by any impartial ~~observer~~ observer. Mrs. Meir wishes to recall that in course of her last conversation with Mr. Hammarskjold she stated to him clearly this view.

Yours sincerely,

(s) M. Z. R. Z. KIDRON"

UNATIONS GENEVA

953 SECRETARY GENERAL FROM CORDIER.

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM KIDRON TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

"6 May 1957.

Dear Mr. Secretary-General.

During the course of your meeting with Ambassador Eban on 1 April, at which Mr. Cordier, Mr. Rafael and I were present, you enquired whether the Government of Israel would be prepared to agree to the United Nations Emergency Force opening fire on trespassers from Israel into the UNEF security zone in the Gaza strip if and when such trespassers ignored an order to halt. You will recall that this question was again discussed at a subsequent meeting on 12 April.

The matter has been considered by my Government, who have instructed me to make the following reply to your enquiry:

The Government of Israel recognizes the competence of the United Nations Emergency Force to open fire on persons who enter from Israel territory into the UNEF security zone established along the Gaza side of the UNEF lines, when such persons do not halt on being challenged by UNEF patrols.

The above declaration is made on the basis of the information given by the Secretary General that such authority will also be exercised by UNEF with respect to persons entering into the UNEF security zone from the direction of Gaza.

This declaration is without prejudice to the agreement of 31 March 1957 between the Israel defence forces and the United Nations Emergency Force regarding the return of members of UNEF and Israelis crossing the line without hostile intention.

Yours sincerely,

M. R. Kidron"

With the expressed attitudes of the Scandinavian Governments and with no objection raised from any other quarter, I assume that Burns can now be given the instructions that he desires ./.

17 May 1957

Dear Reggie,

Enclosed please find a letter to the Prime Minister with a copy for your information. I would be grateful if the letter could be forwarded to Mr. Ben Gurion so that he will receive it without too much delay. You will find that it does not contain any "secrets" and that, thus, it need not be sent by pouch.

With kind regards,

Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General

Mr. Mordecai R. Kidron,
Deputy Representative to the
United Nations,
Permanent Mission of Israel to the
United Nations,
15 East 70th Street,
New York, N.Y.