

**Middle East conflict - Jordan.
Amman files: Middle East
conflict - Jordan. ...**

HS L 179:106b



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Dag Hammarskjölds samling

Amman, Middle East Conflicts, Feb. 1959

Correspondence - to Burns (Gaza)

From UN (sec. Gen., R. Bunche) - to Burns
(Gaza)

L 179: 106 b

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
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Press Release EMF/268
4 February 1959

UNEF REPORTS ARMED ISRAELIS ON EGYPTIAN TERRITORY; WOMAN, CHILD KILLED

The following is a text of a communique issued today in Gaza by the United Nations Emergency Force:

"A United Nations Emergency Force patrol this morning found four armed Israelis on Egyptian territory south of Rafah. When intercepted the Israelis said they had lost their way, and withdrew across the international frontier.

"Subsequently, the UNEF patrol learned that the Israelis had engaged a Bedouin camp in Egypt with the result that one woman and one child were killed by small arms fire and one woman was wounded."

* * * * *

4 Feb. 1958 D.Hammarskjöld

MOST IMMEDIATE

BURNS
GAZA

You may have seen Israel version of latest incident in Gaza as published by Agencies. In case you have not, Reuther version follows:

"An Israeli Army Spokesman said a patrol crossed by mistake into the Gaza Strip while in hot pursuit of a group of Arab infiltrators who had attacked with rifle and machinegun fire.

The spokesman said the patrol broke off the chase as soon as the commander realized he had crossed the border. They returned to Israel, escorted by a United Nations Emergency Force patrol whom they met after turning back.

He said Arab infiltrators had attacked the patrol at 400 yards range with rifle and machinegun fire close to Kerem Avshalom, near the Gaza Strip border. The infiltrators withdrew across the border when the Israeli patrol returned the fire, he said.

He said the infiltrators continued to fire on the patrol after it recrossed the border into Israel, but there were no casualties."

We observe that in your two cables regarding the matter, there is no indication of "hot pursuit" following previous infiltration into Israel and that there is no indication that patrol when "escorted by a UNEF patrol" continued to be fired at (sic). Your urgent comments on these elements in Israel version would be appreciated.

Apart from report on outcome of a MAK meeting, we would wish to get fullest possible information on incident urgently.

^S
Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General

6 Feb. '59

RJBunche

3853
2932

UnderSec

X

UNEF
GAZA

_____ BURNS REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TODAY INFORMED ME HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING VERSION OF RECENT BEDOUIN INCIDENT AS REPORTED BY ISRAELI PATROL PARA ISRAELIS ENCOUNTERED FOUR OR FIVE BEDOUINS DRESSED IN BLACK IN VICINITY OF KEREM ABSALOM STOP THE ~~SEE~~ BEDOUINS OPENED FIRE ON THE PATROL WHOSE COMMANDER THEN GAVE ORDER TO RETURN FIRE STOP THE CLASH CONTINUED WITH BEDOUINS RETREATING TO AN ENCAMPMENT FROM WHICH THEY CONTINUED TO FIRE STOP ISRAELIS RETURNED FIRE IN DIRECTION OF ENCAMPMENT BUT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HITTING ANYONE STOP ISRAELI PATROL ON WAY BACK FROM ENCAMPMENT ENCOUNTERED UNEF JEEP IN WHICH WAS ALSO RIDING A BEDOUIN WHO GOT OUT WHEN JEEP STOPPED STOP UNEF PATROL ASKED THE ISRAELIS TO GO BACK ACROSS THE LINE PARA AT THE TIME WHEN ISRAELIS ENCOUNTERED THE UNEF JEEP CMA THE BEDOUINS WERE STILL FIRING FROM THE ENCAMPMENT AT THE ISRAELIS WHO CALLED THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNEF PATROL STOP IN FACT CMA THE ISRAELIS SAY CMA THE UNEF JEEP QUOTE FLED UNQUOTE FROM FIRE COMING FROM THE BEDOUIN ENCAMPMENT PARA AS THEY NEARED THE BORDER CMA THE ISRAELIS MET ANOTHER UNEF VEHICLE CMA A SCOUT CAR CMA AND CONTINUED ACROSS THE BORDER PARA I

R. J. Bunche
Under-Secretary

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~~HE~~

POINTED OUT TO THE ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE THAT THIS NEW VERSION AS
THE EARLIER ONE WAS FLATLY CONTRADICTED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNEF PATROL

BUNCHE

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TO: BURNS, GAZA
FROM: BUNCHE
DATE: 10 February 1959

NUMBER:

Reference 179.

With concurrence Israeli Representative, Israeli letter has not been circulated and is being withheld temporarily pending consideration on Israeli side of situation created by great disparity between UN and Israeli versions of incident. Explanatory comments set forth in UNEF 171 are excellent and convincing. Israeli Representative has been informed of them orally and is being given full substance in paraphrase. Secretary-General has advised Representative that in view of criticism of UNEF in Israeli letter to Security Council, he would have no choice but to circulate to Council your explanatory comments if Israeli letter is circulated. Will inform you of outcome

cc: ~~SG~~
Mr. Cordier
Dr. Bunche