

# Small files: Israel - Doron case, Boy incident, Jerusalem parade, Flint inc...

HS L 179:183



Dag Hammarskjölds samml.

L 779: 183

Israel

1960-61

Comay, Michael (Perm. Represent. of  
Israel to the U.N.)

- 4 letters to D.H. / Secco
- 5 letters from D.H.



מדינת ישראל

ISRAEL

נציגות ישראל  
באומות המאוחדות  
DELEGATION OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

11 EAST 70TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK  
TRAFALGAR 9-7600

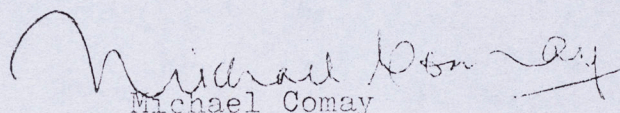
14 April 1960.

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

Thank you for your letter of  
11 April 1960, referring to the statement in the London  
Times attributed to Mr. Eban, concerning the forthcoming  
conference at the Weizmann Institute.

I am sending a copy to Mr. Eban  
and shall communicate with you again when I hear from  
him.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Comay

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold,  
Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
New York.

מדינת ישראל

ISRAEL

*Handwritten:*  
56

PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

11 EAST 70TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK  
TRAFALGAR 9-7600

31 August 1960.

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

On 11 April you wrote to me about an article in the London Times of 1 April, concerning the proposed conference at the Weizmann Institute, and quoting a sentence from a letter you had sent to Mr. Eban.

I referred the matter to Mr. Eban, and on my return to the office yesterday, I found a letter from him, dated 11 August, which reads:

" I received your letter of 20 April on my return from Buenos Aires. I have since made an enquiry into the London Times report of 1 April quoting the Secretary-General's personal letter to me.

" It certainly does appear that the press release furnished to scientific correspondents of the European press contained a sentence from the Secretary-General's letter as well as others which were not confidential. Upon discovering this I took steps to withdraw the press release from any further circulation. There has, since then, been a great deal of publicity about the Rehovot Conference without involving the Secretary-General's personal observations to me.

" I hope that Mr. Hammarskjold will thus regard the matter as settled. In my own judgment for what it is worth, the sentence quoted could not have given any reasonable reader the impression of any official commitment. The scientists and the leaders of new States, who are coming to the Conference, have never been left in doubt concerning the national character of my initiative. I nevertheless believe that the purposes of the United Nations, including some of its most central and crucial

Mr. Hammarskjold

- 2 -

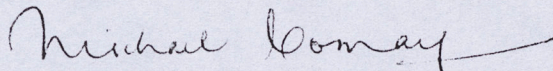
31 August 1960.

" objectives, will be effectively honoured by the memorable assembly which will convene here on August 15.

" To sum up, I am sorry if the Secretary-General has been inconvenienced and should like you to convey this expression of regret. On the other hand, I do not believe that any substantial damage or injury has been done by this inadvertence. "

I shall be glad to assure Mr. Eban, if that is your wish, that you regard the matter as settled.

Sincerely,



Michael Comay  
Permanent Representative

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold,  
The Secretary-General,  
The United Nations,  
New York, N.Y.

מדינת ישראל

ISRAEL

PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

*W. Hammarskjold*

11 EAST 70TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK  
TRAFALGAR 9-7600

Personal

14 June 1961.

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

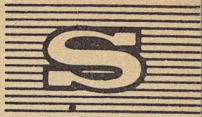
I have by chance received the enclosed copy of a Swedish translation of Mr. Ben-Gurion's introductory article to the 1959 Israel Government Year Book. The translation was put out by our Embassy in Stockholm, and it occurred to me that you might like to have this copy, as a matter of interest.

Incidentally, I handed to Mr. Ben-Gurion the copy of your own lecture at Oxford, and he asked me to acknowledge it with his thanks, and his regrets that he would be unable to read it before leaving New York, as every moment of his time was parcelled out amongst a succession of visitors and meetings. I obtained some extra copies, and read it with much interest and pleasure, having been close up to some of the developments on which it touches either explicitly or implicitly.

Yours sincerely,

*Michael Comay*  
Michael Comay

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold,  
The Secretary-General,  
The United Nations,  
New York, N.Y.



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/4843  
23 June 1961

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

LETTER DATED 23 JUNE 1961 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to bring to the attention of the Security Council a series of aggressive actions on the part of Syrian armed forces of the United Arab Republic during the last few days, directed against civilians engaged in peaceful work in Israel. These actions have created a situation liable to cause a serious threat to peace in the area, if not ended immediately.

On 19 June at 10.30 hours, Syrian army position situated on a hill known as Tel Asasiyat directed machine-gun fire at a civilian working party engaged in cutting a stretch of road in Northern Israel, to the east of the settlement of Shear Yashuv and to the west of the northern demilitarized zone. (The Syrian army positions partly penetrate this demilitarized zone, from which all armed forces must be excluded under the provisions of the Syria-Israel General Armistice Agreement.) The road project was undertaken after an understanding was reached with UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organization) regarding the alignment of the road, and advance notice was given of the start of the work. There is no question whatsoever about the work being well within Israel territory.

Later the same day, 19 June, Syrian fire was renewed, and the tractor used by the Israel working party was hit and damaged. Several hours later fire was opened for the third time by the Syrian forces. On the next day, 20 June, when work was resumed following an UNTSO investigation, Syrian army positions again interfered by opening fire, this time employing heavy machine-guns.

The Syrian fire was in each case briefly returned to secure the safe withdrawal of the workers and their equipment.

All these flagrant violations of the armistice agreement occurred in plain view of a United Nations Observation Post.

On 21 June, the Syrians extended the area of their aggressive activity by opening fire on farmers working with agricultural machinery on Israel lands both inside and outside the central demilitarized zone, in the vicinity of the settlement of Ashmoura. The area in question is situated about fifteen kilometres to the south of the scene of the incidents of the 19th and 20th June. These lands have been regularly cultivated by their Israel owners.

During the night of 21-22 June, Syrian army positions along the international frontier between Dardara and the B'not Ya'akov bridge in the area of the central demilitarized zone, four times opened automatic fire across the frontier.

On 22 June at 19.00 hours, Syrian positions opened fire on settlers of Dan, who were attempting to extinguish a field fire next to the United Nations Observation Post at Tel el-Kadi, at the northern end of the northern demilitarized zone.

On the same day, 22 June, at 19.15 hours, shots were fired by the Syrians at the Israel village of Mishmar Hayerden opposite the B'not Ya'akov bridge in the central demilitarized zone. At 20.00 hours the same evening the Syrian positions at Dorgiat, two kilometres north of the B'not Ya'akov bridge, opened fire on Israel settlers. At 20.25 hours the Syrian positions at the old Customs House next to the B'not Ya'akov bridge, directed fire at the Israel villages of Mishmar Hayarden and Gadot, and the surrounding area. The firing on these villages was renewed at 24.00 hours. At 05.00 hours on 23 June, firing was resumed from the Syrian positions at Dorgiat. The United Nations Observers investigating at first light on the morning of 23rd June, noted many bullet marks on the houses of the two villages and collected a number of bullets. In none of these incidents was the fire returned from the Israel side.

Complaints were lodged with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization regarding the various aggressive actions by Syrian armed forces which are listed above.

These actions, spread over a number of days and along nearly thirty kilometres of frontier, must be regarded as resulting from deliberate Syrian policy and not as isolated incidents. This is further evidenced by the fact that during the preceding weeks, and following a period of relative quiet, Syrian forces were responsible for the murder of two Israelis at other locations along this stretch of frontier. On

27 May an Israel villager was shot and killed by Syrian soldiers firing across the international frontier from positions on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. On 30 May a sergeant of the Israel Border Police was shot and killed at Mishmar Hayarden by Syrian troops occupying positions overlooking the B'not Ya'akov bridge. These two cases of violence were acts of wilful, unprovoked and senseless murder committed by regular Syrian troops.

It must be evident from the facts listed above that the United Arab Republic authorities in Syria, for reasons best known to themselves, have decided to intensify their policy of active hostility towards Israel.

The Israel Government regards the deterioration of the security situation along its border with Syria with great concern. It should be recalled that Syrian armed assaults in the past have resulted in serious clashes and loss of life, for instance in 1951, 1955, 1958-59, and 1960.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated to all members of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Michael Comay  
Permanent Representative

-----

11 April 1960

Dear Mr. Comay,

You may have noted in the London Times of 1 April an article entitled "Harnessing Science to Afro-Asian needs", in which, giving Mr. Eban as a source, the following paragraph is to be found:

"The initial moves towards implementing this plan have met with general expressions of approval. Typical of the response is a message from Mr. Hammarskjöld, United Nations Secretary-General, who said: 'A conference of the type suggested has unique aspects. It should be productive. I wish you well with it'."

....

In view of Mr. Eban's obviously public statement regarding what I had said, I wish to draw your attention to the personal letter from which the quotation is taken. For your convenience I attach a copy. As you will see from the letter, I made it clear that an official expression of views from my side was excluded, and that I was not in a position to give official support to the conference.

Sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld.

H.E. Mr. M. Comay,  
Permanent Representative to  
the United Nations,  
Permanent Mission of Israel to  
the United Nations,  
11 East 70th Street,  
New York, N.Y.

13 April 1960

Dear Mr. Comay,

From the Jerusalem Post of 13 April I gather that work has begun last week on building a waterpumping station at the efflux of the river Jordan from Lake Tiberias and laying a 48 inch pipeline South to the Jordan valley and Beisan valley settlements.

This piece of news renders it all the more essential for me soon to receive the information which I asked for in the letter of 15 March 1960 to Mr. Tekoah. Were, for whatever reason, the assistance through providing certain information for which I have asked to be further delayed, I would have to work on the basis of such data regarding the matter as I can extract from available documents.

You are aware of the risk of misinterpretations which exists when use is made of such material. It seems to me to be a legitimate expectation from Member nations that the United Nations Secretariat have available to it the essential and presumably not classified data regarding an international river, especially in an area where the United Nations carries serious responsibilities.

Were you not to be in a position to provide me with the required data, I am sure that you will inform me and that your letter would give me the reasons why, so that I would know on what basis I could act in relation to interested delegations.

Dag Hammarskjöld

H.E. Mr. M. Comay,  
Permanent Representative to  
the United Nations,  
Permanent Mission of Israel to  
the United Nations,  
11 East 70th Street,  
New York, N.Y.

21 April 1960

Personal and Confidential

Dear Mr. Comay,

.....  
In view of your letter of 21 April which I have just received, I feel that I should send to you a copy of the Jerusalem Post article which makes it quite clear that what they say, by no stretch of imagination, can be, by implication, read into the Stockholm despatch which, in any case, is misleading and of doubtful origin.

Thus, knowledge of the Stockholm despatch would not have affected my reaction. The record, at all events, is such that I find it justified to say that a certain type of publicity in Israel does harm Israel's own interests by creating doubts and suspicions of what you, yourself, certify as the only United Nations machinery which still functions in the interest of Israel regarding the Canal.

Dag Hammarskjöld.

H.E. Mr. Michael Comay,  
Permanent Representative to  
the United Nations,  
Permanent Mission of Israel to  
the United Nations,  
11 East 70th Street,  
New York, N.Y.

10 May 1960

Dear Mr. Comay,

I thank you for your letter of 6 May 1960.

I wish to refer again to my letters of 15 March and 13 April, 1960, with, as I thought, the clear and precise questions I put in order to ascertain the facts which lead you to conclude that your Jordan water plans are within the terms of the so-called Johnston plan. Quite frankly, I find it difficult to understand that this matter can be of such a complexity that it would require a verbal clarification. Would I be right in concluding that the Israel Government, for some reason, does not find it possible to go on written record with its plans?

You will appreciate that a discussion with you on this issue from my position might be of little value unless I had the facts on which an exchange of views could be based. However, if you feel that an oral explanation is essential, I would suggest that you see Mr. Cordier, who then could give me a report on your conversation, for, as you know, I am about to go to London myself for talks on South Africa and, therefore, would not be available for some time.

Dag Hammarskjöld

H.E. Mr. Michael Comay,  
Permanent Representative to  
the United Nations,  
Permanent Mission of Israel to  
the United Nations,  
11 East 70th Street,  
New York, N.Y.