

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

HS L 179:183



Dag Hammarskjölds samml.

L 179:183

Israel

1956-58

Kidron, Mordocai R. (Deputy Represent.
of Israel to the U.N.)

- 24 letters/messages to D. H. and Secco.
- 7 letters from D. H.



מדינת ישראל
ISRAEL

נציגות ישראל
באומות המאוחדות
DELEGATION OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DEC 10 1956

ACTION
TO *D. L. L. L.*
11 EAST 70TH STREET
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK
TRAFALGAR 9-7600
Registered
Required

10/240 KOR?

7 December, 1956.

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

In Ambassador Eban's absence I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 6 December, the contents of which have been conveyed to the Government of Israel.

Yours sincerely,

M.R. Kidron.


Deputy Permanent Representative to
the United Nations.

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

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary-General

FROM: Ralph J. Bunche

Date: 7 January 1957SUBJECT: 

Kidron informs at 3:50 p.m. that Jerusalem has advised the Israeli Delegation that a message will be coming tonight on the withdrawal, but it will undoubtedly arrive too late for a meeting before tomorrow (Tuesday) morning.

Kidron also informed that after careful reading he had distinctly revised his initial negative appraisal of your memorandum.

UNEF 56 from Burns indicates that the Israelis are withdrawing today all along the line and UNEF units are accordingly advancing. But the distance of the withdrawal is not yet known.

Israel press briefing:

"Mr. Kidron has met with the Secretary-General this afternoon to bring ~~this~~ the incidents below to his attention."



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

*The points raised but
referred to by Mr. Brown, Chairman
M.A.C. for observations and comments
4. Should be observed only through M.A.C.
That U.N. can be provided with
FEDAYEEN RAIDS FROM SINAI SINCE 22 JANUARY 1957 checked info*

1. On 30 January, at 0900 hours, an Israeli army vehicle travelling on a road in daily use struck a mine near the International Frontier in the vicinity of Rafah. Two soldiers were injured, one of them severely. Tracks led to UNEF occupied area on the other side of the frontier. An Israeli police investigation revealed that the mine was laid on the previous evening.
2. On 1 February a civilian bulldozer struck a mine north of Tel Yerucham. The driver was severely injured. Tracks of two barefooted persons led in the direction of the Beersheba - El Auja road in the direction of the International Frontier. The road on which this incident occurred is also in constant use.
3. On 10 February, at 2200 hours, an Israeli patrol near Rafah encountered a group of armed Egyptians from the El Arish area who had passed through the UNEF lines and were attempting to penetrate the Gaza strip. In an exchange of fire three of the Egyptians were killed.
4. On 10 February, an Israeli patrol found an Egyptian plastic mine on a road south of Kerem Avshalom on the Israel side of the International Frontier.
5. On 11 February, another Egyptian mine was found in the same place.
6. On 11 February, at 1700 hours, six armed Egyptians from the El Arish area passed through UN lines and attempted to penetrate the Gaza strip. They were driven off by an Israeli patrol.
7. On 12 February, at 1900 hours, an army vehicle struck a mine on a main road near the southern boundary of the Gaza strip. Five soldiers were injured. Tracks led in the direction of the UNEF lines.
8. On 13 February, an army half-tracked vehicle following the tracks of the mine layers in the previous incident itself struck a mine in the same area.

14.2.1957

5 March 1957

Notes on Mrs. Meir's meeting with correspondents at luncheon
with members of the United Nations Correspondents Association

Mrs. Meir opened her remarks to outline the background that led to the Sinai campaign. She said the reason for the campaign was "simple". It was "nothing more", she said, "but nothing less" than "that what all are entitled to - the right of security and the right of passage for our boats".

As to the future, especially the security of Gaza, she said it was "not a question of territory or conquest". She said "our people are extremely worried". She explained that there is need of settlement on the borders, so that "we have the responsibility of protecting our people". She said Israel "assumes, expects, hopes" that there will be security in the area. But, she added, Israel hoped that "those countries that have it within their power" not to go out on assumptions, but must "assure Israel that there be no need for more fighting". She said that there are nations that have so much that they can compromise on some things. But small nations, she said, can not compromise. "All we want is security, and we can not compromise on security. We must be assured security", she said.

Mrs. Meir said she was "going home" (she is leaving tomorrow) "with the assumption, expectation and hope that the security of Israel is no longer the responsibility of Israel alone". She added: "We hope we will not have to take up arms again, but if this should become necessary, we will do so. We can not compromise on this point."

Later, touching on Gaza again, Mrs. Meir said Israel "must be absolutely certain that Egypt in no form can return to Gaza". She said she did not want to question Egypt's "juridical claim" over Gaza based on the Armistice Agreement. But, she said, "we see the Armistice Agreement as a whole" and it should not be brought up only in some parts. Belligerency, for example, is ruled out and yet Egypt has carried out belligerent acts and, therefore, has "forfeited" the agreement. To sum it up, she said, "de facto, in order to maintain peace and security in the area, Egypt must not return in any manner or form to Gaza". We hope UNEF will be able to keep peace on the borders", she said. Asked if Israel would accept UNEF on Israel's side of the border, she said that she has time and again, and would once again, "challenge anyone to tell me when we have initiated any act of belligerency - raided across the border, or fired across the border". Therefore, she said, there "is no need for patrols on our side of the border". Patrols, she said, should be carried out "on the other side".

COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION 1 MARCH

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Mrs. Meir, in the discussion 18 March, said that she considered that anybody who had not stood up and criticized the "assumptions" in her statement 1 March, had taken responsibility for their inaccuracy. In particular this was true of the Secretary-General, who, if he looked at it that way, should have said in the debate that he had not sufficient powers under the Charter to assure the implementation of the assumptions, or that the Armistice Agreement did not give him sufficient scope for implementation. This theory calls for the following comments:

When the Israeli Delegation presented their assumptions, they were, like everybody else, fully aware of the following circumstances:

- a) Under the Charter the UNEF functions with the consent of Egypt, restricted only by a good-faith interpretation of its functions. This is stated in the Second and Final Report;
- b) Egypt rights under the Armistice Agreement were recognized by the United Nations;
- c) According to the decision of the General Assembly the UNEF was not a combat force that could be put in military control of a territory;
- d) The decision of the General Assembly was that the withdrawal should be unconditional;
- e) The extent to which cooperation by Egypt to the establishment of a UN administration in Gaza might be possible, had been fully spelled out in the statement 22 February as elucidated 26 February.

As the Israeli statement obviously was to be considered as a statement in good faith, all these points must be assumed to have been taken into account. At all events, they could not be in need of any repetition in the debate as a qualification of the initial stand of the Secretary-General.

It was known that the Israeli statement was part of a carefully planned and even rehearsed procedure with the American reply as the clinching factor. As the American reply gave my verbatim text of 22 February with reference to the Armistice Agreement as setting the legal frame for a solution, it provided the Israeli statement with a clinching setting to which I had nothing to add.

My view on the impossibility of an implementation of the Israeli statement as it was interpreted by Mrs. Meir outside the General Assembly, was known to France, UK and Canada. Israel took no contact with me in order to clarify my views on possible implementation, what was all the more significant as they had no indication of any change of my stand from 26 February and as they knew that instructions for implementation would depend on me.

It is difficult in retrospect just as it was at the time, not to interpret the situation as one where Israel, France and the US worked out a formula in order to get over the hump which had become apparent on the 25th and the 26th. In order to do so they had to hide the underlying conflict of views so as not to provoke an open discussion in the General Assembly or to force me to repeat my previous declarations. As the arrangement had been made in Washington and was staged in New York, an interpretation from my side in the debate, restating previous stands as Mrs. Meir now suggested that I should have done, would, from the point of view of the Governments, parties to the attempt, have been to wreck the slender chance of a possibility in a certain atmosphere of vagueness pragmatically to go around the difficult corner. It would have been irresponsible from my side to "protect" myself by brushing aside in this way a slender chance open of a de facto meeting of minds in spite of the de jure conflicts.

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3805
14 March 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 13 MARCH 1957 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the following act of violence by marauders entering Israel from the Gaza Strip, which has occurred since the withdrawal of Israel from that area:

On 10 March 1957, at 15:00 hours, a car travelling on a dirt road in the vicinity of Kerem Avshalom, near the Gaza Strip, hit a land-mine and was blown up. The driver and one passenger were injured. A gang of infiltrators was seen fleeing from the scene after the explosion. Three hours earlier, the same car had passed the scene of the attack without mishap.

The renewal by marauders from the Gaza Strip of these attacks in Israel is a matter of extreme gravity and danger, which my Government views with the utmost concern.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated among all Members of the United Nations.

(Signed) M.R. Kidron

for Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3810
8 April 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 5 APRIL FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the following cases of infiltration and marauding from the Gaza strip into Israel that have occurred since my communication of 13 March 1957 (S/3805):

1. On 10 March a group of marauders attempted to break into Mefalsim village near the Gaza border. One of them was killed by the watchmen of the village.
2. On the same day a marauder from the Gaza strip was arrested near Kissufim by Israel security forces.
3. On 12 March two marauders from Gaza were arrested near Nirim by Israel security forces.
4. On 13 March a flock of sheep was stolen from Kissufim by marauders from the Gaza strip.
5. On the same day two marauders were arrested near Nir Am by Israel security forces.
6. Again on 13 March another marauder from Gaza was arrested in the vicinity of Nir Yitzhak.
7. On 14 March a group of infiltrators from the Gaza strip crossed into Israel and reaped 40 Dunams of wheat from the fields of Kfar Aza.
8. On 15 March infiltrators from the Gaza strip stole 50 sacks of grain from Nirim village.
9. On 17 March a tractor from Nahal Oz struck a freshly laid mine on a well traversed road near the village. Two farmers in the tractor escaped injury, but their vehicle was wrecked. The tracks of four barefooted men led to the Gaza strip.
10. On the same day three more plastic anti-vehicle mines were found in the proximity of the first mine.

11. On 18 March infiltrators from Gaza stole a stand of corn in the fields of Mefalsim village.
12. On 22 March a plastic mine of Czech manufacture was discovered on a dirt road near Nirim in the vicinity of the Gaza strip. The road is in constant use.
13. In the night of 22 March the watchmen of the Ruhama settlement repelled an attack by four marauders. In the morning it was found that the village fence had been broken into in three places. Tracks of the marauders led to the Gaza strip.
14. On the night of 23 March infiltrators stole 12 goats from Dagan village. Tracks led to the Gaza strip.
15. On 24 March infiltrators stole 3 calves from Shuval.
16. On the night of 25 March infiltrators stole irrigation pipes from the fields of Ein Hashelosh.
17. On the same night infiltrators from Gaza stole livestock from the village of Tekuma.
18. On 27 March 400 metres of irrigation pipes were stolen from the settlement of Nirim by infiltrators whose tracks led to the Gaza strip.
19. On the same day a herd of sheep was stolen from the settlement of Shdema by infiltrators whose tracks led to the Gaza strip.

The continuation of marauding and infiltration from the Gaza strip into Israel is a matter which my Government cannot avoid viewing with extreme concern. Experience has shown that incidents which at first sight appear to be relatively unimportant, such as infiltration and marauding for purposes of theft and robbery, are the invariable preludes to serious outbreaks of violence and terror throughout the area.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated among all members of the United Nations.

Please accept, Sir etc.

(Signed) M.R. Kidron

for Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3814
22 April 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1957 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the following cases of marauding and infiltration from the Gaza strip into Israel which have occurred since my communication of 5 April 1957 (S/3810):

1. On 7 April a marauder from the Gaza strip ran into an ambush set by Israel security forces near Kissufim. In an exchange of fire the marauder was wounded and taken prisoner.
2. On 8 April an infiltrator from the Gaza strip was arrested as he was approaching the village of Kfar Aza.
3. On 10 April an Israel patrol near Keren Avshalom drove off, after an exchange of fire, three marauders from the Gaza strip.
4. On 11 April an infiltrator from the Gaza strip holding a Jordan certificate of identification was arrested by security forces on Israel territory.
5. On the same day three marauders from the Gaza strip fell into an ambush set by Israel security forces in the vicinity of Nir Yitzhak. One marauder was killed and one wounded. The third succeeded in escaping back to the Gaza strip.
6. On 17 April a land mine was discovered on the road to the village of Keren Avshalom. The road is in constant use.
7. On the night of the 17/18 April, a group of marauders from the Gaza strip attempting to steal irrigation pipes from Kissufim was repelled by Israel security forces in an exchange of fire.

I again wish to express the extreme concern with which my Government views the continuation of marauding and infiltration from the Gaza strip into Israel.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated among all Members of the United Nations.

(Signed) M. R. Kidron
for Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

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} 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. Mr. 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 ./.


מדינת ישראל
ISRAEL

מדינת ישראל
הרשות המבצעת
REPUBLIC OF ISRAEL
THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK
TRAPALDAN 11-7600

June 10, 1957

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am instructed to inquire whether the Egyptian Government has communicated to you any reply to your letter of 24 March, 1957 on the question of belligerent acts.

Yours sincerely,

The Secretary General
United Nations
New York, N.Y.

משרד הביטחון
הרשמי

ISRAEL

DN/85671

23 July 1957

Sir,

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to bring to your urgent attention the illegal conduct of the Government of Egypt, in connection with the passage through the Suez Canal of the vessel "Brigitta Toft". The vessel, flying a Danish flag, is on charter to an Israeli company and is carrying a cargo of rice from Burma to Israel.

On arrival at the southern entrance of the Canal on 22 July 1957, the vessel was detained by the Egyptian authorities. One member of the crew, Raphael Eylon, an Israel citizen, was arrested on board the vessel and forcibly removed from it.

The Government of Israel wishes to protest in the strongest terms against these arbitrary actions by the Government of Egypt, which are in violation of the United Nations Charter and the internationally valid principle of the freedom of passage through the Suez Canal.

These actions are also a flagrant breach of the regulations published recently by the Government of Egypt. These regulations, which purportedly guide the Egyptian Canal Authority in its administration of the Canal, specifically provide that no discrimination on any grounds would be practised and that full freedom of passage would be assured.

in These latest acts on the part of the Government of Egypt are moreover/open contradiction with the six principles adopted by the Security Council on 13 October 1956 which include a stipulation to the effect that the operation of the Canal should be insulated from the politics of any country.

- 2 -

The Government of Israel reserves its right to pursue this matter further as it deems appropriate.

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

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Acting Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

The President,
Security Council,
United Nations,
New York, N.Y.



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

24 July 1957

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your conversation with Ambassador Eban this morning and to transmit the following additional information concerning the illegal detention by the Government of Egypt of the Israeli sailor Raphael Eylon:

According to a message received by the owners from the Captain of the "Brigitta Toft", the vessel is due to arrive at Haifa today at approximately 1600 hours, local time, without its full complement, the arrested crew member still being under Egyptian detention.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate the request by my Government which I had the honour to transmit to you orally yesterday, for your intervention with the Government of Egypt in order to obtain the release of Raphael Eylon and his return to Israel.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A. Liveran

A. Liveran

for Acting Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations

Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, N.Y.

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3870
23 August 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1957 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on instructions from the Government of Israel, to draw the attention of the Security Council to a new instance of the methods of harrassment and intimidation practised by the Government of Egypt in the Suez Canal against merchant shipping trading with Israel.

On Friday evening, 16 August 1957, the Norwegian vessel "Mars", bound from the Philippines to Haifa with a cargo of copra, arrived at the southern entrance of the Suez Canal. Had normal procedure been followed the "Mars" would have joined a northbound convoy the next morning, and arrived in Haifa on 18 August. Instead the vessel was not permitted to sail until 20 August and thus reached her destination on 21 August, three days late. The captain has reported that when he inquired of his agents in Port Suez why he was being delayed, he was told that the authority for him to join the convoy had not yet been received from Cairo. No other reason was given.

The captain of the "Mars" has also reported that despite the intense heat the Egyptian authorities in Port Suez refused to permit him to take on fresh water, with the result that he was obliged to introduce strict rationing of water for drinking during the last three days of his voyage. Supplies of fresh milk and vegetables were also refused to the ship.

The Government of Israel has instructed me to inform the Security Council that it regards the high-handed and arbitrary behaviour of the Egyptian authorities in the case of the "Mars" as a gross violation of the principle of free passage for shipping of all nations through the Suez Canal. It protests in the strongest terms against this deliberate breach of the international laws and instruments in force guaranteeing freedom of passage, and reserves the right to pursue the matter further as it deems appropriate.

S/3870
English
Page 2

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed)

M.R. Kidron
Acting Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations

September 13, 1957

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Before our meeting on Monday I hope that you can help me in a matter affecting Mount Scopus. The UNTSO has rejected the inclusion in the next convoy of surgical and medical equipment for the present sick room. In any emergency our people would depend on the good graces of Jordan to facilitate urgent removal down to Jerusalem. There have been cases of severe injury to policemen and even U.N. Observers in that mine-ridden area.

The obstruction of such equipment is incomprehensible and inhuman. B.G. spoke to me about it in Jerusalem in sheer incredulity. He drew very broad deductions about UNTSO and UN which I am sure we should both wish to avoid.

It may be that the officer concerned is unduly cautious for jurisdictional reasons. That is why I have told Jerusalem that I am absolutely confident that you will solve the problem as soon as it is brought to your notice.

Yours very sincerely,

The Secretary General
United Nations
New York, N.Y.

Secretary General

The fishing boat
taken by the Egyptians
was a fishing boat on
a normal fishing trip -
and nothing more. There
is no truth in the
Egyptian allegations.

I have been instructed
to inform the Security
Council of the incident.

4 Oct 57

MRK/L

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

15 October 1957

Dear Dag,

I have made enquiries about the Egyptian allegation that an Egyptian vessel sailing from Alexandria to Latakia was seized by the Israel Navy on 30 September. There is no truth whatsoever in the story.

You might be interested to know that another version of this tale was put out by Cairo Radio in its Hebrew programme on 14 October at 6:30 a.m. According to this the Israel Navy seized, and subsequently released, a Greek vessel under the impression that it was Egyptian. There is no truth in this story either.

I hope that I am right in assuming that there will be no further delay from the Egyptian side in releasing the Doron and its crew, now that this so-called road-block has been cleared away.

Yours sincerely
Reggie

M.R. Kidron

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

מדינת ישראל

ISRAEL

נציגות ישראל
באומות המאוחדות
DELEGATION OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

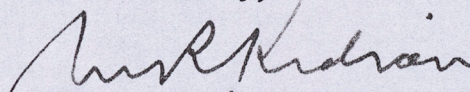
11 EAST 70TH STREET
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK
TRAFALGAR 9-7600

31st October
1957

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

My Prime Minister was deeply touched by your expression of concern for the welfare of his colleagues and himself, and desires me to convey to you his and their appreciation of your kind message.

Yours sincerely,



M.R. Kidron

The Secretary-General,
United Nations,
New York.

ממשלת ישראל
רשות המבחן
משרד החוץ
ISRAEL

ממשלת ישראל
משרד החוץ
DELEGATION OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

11 EAST 20TH STREET
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE 9-7400

DN/85241

6 November 1957

Confidential

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I spoke to you yesterday about the arrest and detention by Egyptian authorities in Alexandria of an Israeli sailor. The following are all the details I have:

The name of the man is MISHAEL ZYRNER of Haifa. He is a student at a merchant marine school in Holland and signed on for a voyage in a Dutch ship named RAKI (I am not sure of the spelling) in order to raise money to carry on with his studies. This vessel was on its way from the East coast of Africa or from the Orient to New York and passed through the Suez Canal in a northerly direction on or about 1 November. After passing through the Canal, the RAKI put into Alexandria and ZYRNER was arrested there on 2 or 3 November. (These dates are approximate. They derive from a cable from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem quoting a Reuters message from the Hague. The whole affair might well have taken place before 1 November and been hushed up for a few days).

I understand that the Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs is pursuing the matter through regular diplomatic channels, and also that the Red Cross in Geneva have been informed.

I need hardly emphasize the extreme gravity with which Israel must view this new instance of Egyptian assault on the rights and liberties of Israeli seamen. These things are happening with a disquieting frequency which we cannot be expected to accept passively.

Yours sincerely,

M.R. Kidron

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

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3910
14 November 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 NOVEMBER 1957 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I refer to the letter dated 8 November 1957 of the Representative of Jordan (S/3907) and have the honour to observe that this document contains at least three serious misrepresentations designed to cast an unfavourable light on the perfectly legitimate activities of my Government.

Firstly, the Representative of Jordan refers to a decision of the Security Council on 6 September 1957. The records of the Security Council do not disclose any decision on the question at issue at this or at any other meeting.

Secondly, the Representative of Jordan quotes an opinion expressed by one member of the Security Council, and endeavours to pass it off as the agreed view of the Council. The views of the Security Council were summed up by the President at the meeting of 6 September. That summing up does not include the statement quoted by the Representative of Jordan or any other expression in the same or similar sense.

Thirdly, the Representative of Jordan describes the tree planting activity undertaken on the Israel side of the civilian line in the former Government House area in Jerusalem as a violation of the Armistice Agreement. As the Acting Chief of Staff confirms in paragraphs 6 and 7 of his report (A/3892), the General Armistice Agreement contains no provisions determining the legal status of the area and does not define the respective rights and obligations of the parties in the area.

In these circumstances the list attached to the Representative of Jordan's letter, even if it were accurate, would be of no more than academic interest, as legitimate civilian activities of the kind listed have been proceeding on both the Jordan and Israel sides of the civilian line in the Government House area for the past eight years.

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

(Signed) M.R. KIDRON
for Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

Secgen from Cordier *nicn*
Transmitting this following at party's request.

24 December 1957

*coded to SF in file
24 Dec '57
see chief
code cable file*

Code Cable

“ Secretary-General
Personal and Confidential
from Kidron

Re Doron. On 20 December Detraz Mideast representative Red Cross told Mrs. Harman at Foreign Ministry of his talk in Cairo with General Amer. Amer repeated allegations re ship Devakis and disappearance Egyptian aircraft in October 1956 but admitted Egypt had no proof that Israel was involved in either case. He claimed that at one stage crew had been brought to Gaza for release but were returned jail when Devakis allegedly disappeared. He said finally that if Gen. Dayan gave his word as a soldier that Israel did not hold Devakis and crew and knew nothing about aircraft he would accept it. para

Gen. Dayan gave Detraz this undertaking on 22 December.

Detraz also reported he had abortive talk with Anwar el Sadat on this matter.

The above is for your information only as essential part background to any talks you might have in Cairo.

Best personal wishes xmas and coming year.”

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

Personal

27th January
1958

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

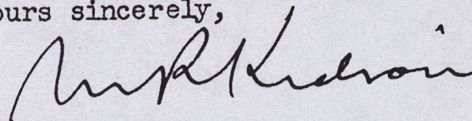
My Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Golda Meir, has instructed me to hand you the following message received this afternoon:

"Happy notify you release Doron crew. The happiness of the families is reward for your effort.

Golda Meir"

I should like to add the sense of my own appreciation of your unceasing efforts to secure the release of these unfortunate men from illegal detention.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld,
Secretary General,
United Nations,
New York.

1/29/58

To: The Secretary-General

The Israeli communication system is again faster than ours: Reggie has just phoned to inform me that the Israeli girl is being returned at 10 a.m. (local) tomorrow. He attributes this action entirely to our intervention and thanks us (quite profusely) for it.

Ralph

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3945
30 January 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 JANUARY 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to draw the attention of the Security Council to a new wave of Syrian aggression against Israel which, on 28 January 1958, culminated in an attack by a Syrian unit with rifle and automatic fire on Israel policemen who were engaged in clearing mines in the fields, in the demilitarized zone, east of the Dan settlement. The fire came from Syrian fortified positions at Tel Azaziyat and Khan Duweir. Under cover of protective fire, a Syrian army unit penetrated the area and attacked 20 policemen who were dispersed over the area and who were armed only with rifles. The Syrian force withdrew only after the arrival of reinforcements which returned the automatic fire.

The firing began at 1515 hours and continued until 1715 hours. As a result of the Syrian attack, two Israeli policemen were killed and five were wounded. Owing to the heavy fire from the Syrian side, the killed and wounded could not be removed until the hours of darkness.

As soon as the Syrian attack became known, the Israel representative on the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission in Tiberias requested the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization to arrange for the immediate cessation of Syrian firing. The reply given by the Syrians to the United Nations Observer was that what was taking place was nothing more serious than an exchange of shots between shepherds. A complaint has been submitted by my Government to the Mixed Armistice Commission and an immediate investigation has been requested.

The nature of this latest unprovoked attack leaves no room for doubt about its planned and premeditated character and indicates that it was carried out in accordance with instructions issued by a responsible authority.

Ever since the end of December 1957 there has been a recrudescence of aggressive activity by Syria directed against Israel on various points along the Israel-Syrian border. Since that date ten serious incidents have occurred which have resulted in the killing of three Israelis and in the wounding of seven:

On 21 December 1957, at 1500 hours, an armed Syrian infiltrator penetrated into Israel territory and opened fire on a young couple walking near Mishmar Hayarden. A man was killed.

On 8 January 1958, at 1830 hours, fire was opened from the Syrian village of Moussadia on fishermen on the Lake of Tiberias who were at a distance of about 60 metres from its north-eastern shore.

On 19 January 1958, at 1345 hours, Syrians shot and wounded a shepherd near Gonen.

On the same day, at 1620 hours, shots were fired by Syrians at fishermen engaged in fishing in Lake Tiberias.

On 22 January 1958, shots were fired from Syrian territory on fishing boats on Lake Tiberias. The fishing nets had to be abandoned.

On 23 January 1958, at 1230 hours, a band of Syrian shepherds entered Israel territory in the vicinity of Shear Yashuv. A Syrian army unit provided cover for them. Shots were fired at an Israel patrol which tried to chase them away.

On 24 January 1958, at 1215 hours, shots were fired at United Nations Truce Supervision Organization Observers, who, together with the Israel representative on the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, were investigating the incident of the previous day.

On 24 January 1958, at 2215 hours, shots were fired from a Syrian post on a fishing boat in Lake Tiberias.

On 25 January 1958, at 1645 hours, four Syrian soldiers entered Israel territory near Kefar Hanassi and, by calling out to him in Hebrew, tried to induce an Israel shepherd to approach them. When he refused, they opened fire at him.

The most serious feature of this latest series of Syrian acts of aggression against Israel is the fact that in most cases members of the regular Syrian army were involved. In numerous instances the fire came from fortified Syrian army positions and in several instances Syrian soldiers entered Israel territory. The firing was directed against Israel civilians who were engaged in peaceful pursuits such as agricultural work, the tending of sheep and fishing, or against Israel policemen clearing mines which had been placed by Syrians in the demilitarized zone on the Israel side of the international border. In some cases Syrian fire was directed against United Nations Observers performing their task. Side by side with these armed attacks, infiltration by Syrian shepherds with their flocks into Israel territory has been continuing. These penetrations have also been carried out under the protection of Syrian armed forces.

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

M. KIDRON

for Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations



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

PRESS RELEASE

IDUN/19

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

14 February 1958

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The following letter to the President of the Security Council was submitted today by the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations.

"I have the honour to inform the Security Council that the clearing of mines from the fields of the Dan Village in the Demilitarized Zone near the border between Israel and Syria, which was undertaken during the months of January and February this year, was completed on 10 February. The purpose of the mineclearing was to restore the affected area to agricultural use. The task was performed by civilian policemen who, in addition to the hazards normally to be expected in this kind of activity, were compelled to endure frequent harrassing fire from Syrian army positions across the border. As a result of this fire two policemen were killed and six injured on 28 January.

The operation was conducted with the knowledge and approval of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and in the presence of United Nations Observers.

At no time were any Israel army troops or vehicles present in the Demilitarized Zone.

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

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3955
14 February 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform the Security Council that the clearing of mines from the fields of the Dan Village in the Demilitarized Zone near the border between Israel and Syria, which was undertaken during the months of January and February this year, was completed on 10 February. The purpose of the mineclearing was to restore the affected area to agricultural use. The task was performed by civilian policemen who, in addition to the hazards normally to be expected in this kind of activity, were compelled to endure frequent harrassing fire from Syrian army positions across the border. As a result of this fire two policemen were killed and six injured on 28 January.

The operation was conducted with the knowledge and approval of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation and in the presence of United Nations observers.

At no time were any Israel army troops or vehicles present in the Demilitarised Zone.

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

Please accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) M.R. Kidron
for Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

S

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3985
2 April 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 APRIL 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to draw your attention to the serious situation which has arisen on the border between Israel and Syria as a consequence of a series of aggressive acts committed by Syrian armed forces against Israeli labourers engaged in digging a drainage canal in the Lake Huleh area, and against life and property in neighbouring villages.

The Lake Huleh drainage scheme, which calls for the drainage of Lake Huleh and the surrounding swamps and their reclamation for agricultural use, is no stranger to the Security Council. On three separate occasions, in 1951, 1953 and 1957, has the Government of Syria seized the Security Council with its complaints against this peaceful and constructive Israeli project. An infinite variety of spurious allegations have been presented to the Security Council by Syrian representatives in a patent attempt to frustrate Israel's economic development in this area. The Security Council and successive Chiefs of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization have found the Lake Huleh drainage scheme to be a legitimate civilian development project and have consistently rejected the Syrian complaints and argumentation against it; yet the arguments reappear, and some of them have been pressed into service once more in the present instance. Moreover Syria has, throughout the past seven-year period, sought to back up her verbal argumentation by applying armed force in a vain attempt to intimidate Israel into abandoning the project. Thus a full-scale armed aggression into Israel took place in 1951, and was repeated in 1953

and 1957. The latest series of attacks is therefore merely a repetition of a familiar pattern of Syrian aggression to which Israel has not submitted in the past nor will submit in the future.

The present works are an integral part of the Huleh reclamation project and are designed in fact to hasten its completion. They are being conducted, and have throughout been conducted, with the full knowledge of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and in the presence of United Nations observers stationed in the immediate area. The works comprise the digging of six drainage canals, the purpose of which is to prevent the flooding of the reclaimed portions of Lake Huleh and adjacent areas during the rainy season. Five of these drainage canals have already been dug - without interference from Syria. Some of them are in the Demilitarized Zone, some outside it. The point is not material, as the Security Council and the Chiefs of Staff have long established that civilian development work may proceed in the Demilitarized Zone so long as Arab owned land is not encroached upon. None of the work has been done on Arab owned land. In this particular instance the canal which is the objective of the present Syrian attacks, the sixth and last of the group, happens to be situated wholly outside the Demilitarized Zone in the reclaimed area of Lake Huleh, between MR20954/27210 and MR20927/27181.

On 21 March the Israel delegate to the Mixed Armistice Commission informed the United Nations Chairman that it was proposed to survey the precise location of the border of the Demilitarized Zone as it was intended to dig the last canal outside the Zone in order to avoid possible encroachment on land in the vicinity partly owned by Arabs. The survey took place on 23 March in the presence of a United Nations observer. It established that the proposed canal was situated on an area of ground newly reclaimed from the Lake and thus outside the Demilitarized Zone, and excavation work was accordingly begun on the morning of 24 March. During the course of the morning the Syrian military commander gave United Nations observers 10 minutes to transmit an ultimatum to the Israel side to the effect that fire would be opened unless the work was stopped forthwith. Firing commenced a minute or so later and was returned by Israel guards.

At midnight of 24/25 March, the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission requested the Israel delegate to postpone continuation of the work so as to enable United Nations observers to re-survey the area in order to establish the exact location of the canal. Israel agreed to suspend the work and the survey was undertaken on 25 March by a United Nations observer. The new survey confirmed that the canal was outside the Demilitarized Zone. On the same day Syrian forces directed rifle fire on Israeli labourers on the work site.

On 26 March Syrian army positions again opened fire, which was returned by Israel forces protecting the labourers. Work on the canal continued. On the night of the 26th, the Chief of Staff informed the Israel Foreign Office that Syria contested the findings of the United Nations observer's survey and he accordingly requested a further suspension to permit of further investigation. Work was accordingly suspended once again from 27 March to 30 March. The second United Nations investigation was completed on 29 March. On the night of the 29/30 March the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission requested Israel to extend the suspension of work for another half day, until noon on 30 March. Israel complied with this request as well.

Work was accordingly resumed at 12.30 p.m. on 30 March. Fifteen minutes later Syrian army positions opened fire on the labourers, but were silenced for some time by return fire from the Israeli side. At a later stage machine gun and heavy mortar fire was directed from Syrian army positions on a number of civilian targets on the Israeli side. With the help of United Nations observers a cease-fire was finally attained at 1430 hours. Work was taken up again at 1700 hours and continued without disturbance until nightfall.

On 31 March at 1620 hours the Syrian armed forces renewed their aggression by lobbing a mortar shell at the workmen, who had restarted work two hours before. Immediately following this a barrage of 120 mm mortar fire, supported by tanks, was directed against the men. At this point Israel tanks returned fire against Syrian military positions. An exchange of artillery fire followed during which one farmer was killed and damage done at Gadot and two men and one woman wounded at Hulata. Gadot and Hulata are farming communities situated 3 km and 2 1/2 km respectively from the place where the canal is being dug.

During this engagement it was observed that Syrian fire was directed at clearly marked United Nations observation posts, so that United Nations observers were forced to abandon them and seek cover elsewhere.

United Nations observers requested both sides to cease fire at 1645 hours. The Israel commander agreed on condition that the Syrians also stopped shooting. The Syrian military commander asked to postpone the cease-fire until 1700 hours, but continued firing after that. A cease-fire was eventually put into effect at 1750 hours.

During the course of the same day, the Israel Ministry for Foreign Affairs informed the Chief of Staff that Israel would agree to a further survey by United Nations observers in order to dispose of any points which might still give grounds for uncertainty. On the same evening the Chief of Staff informed the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that a party of United Nations surveyors was prepared to go out to the area on the morning of 1 April and requested that the work be temporarily suspended at the work site and surrounding areas in order to make it possible for the surveyors to complete their task without delay. Israel agreed to this further request for suspension, and the survey is proceeding with the full co-operation of the Israel authorities.

It will be apparent from the above chronicle that Israel has throughout demonstrated her willingness to co-operate with United Nations authorities in order to clear up any doubts that may have arisen concerning the location of the proposed drainage canal. The work has been suspended at United Nations request on four occasions. Syria, on the other hand, has utterly disregarded all United Nations attempts to settle the matter by way of a factual examination of her claims, and has instead used armed force with increasing intensity in a desperate effort to achieve her objectives by violence.

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

Please accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) M.R. Kidron
Acting Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations

COPY

23rd May 1958

Dear Mr. Hammarskjöld,

I refer to your letter of 22 May concerning Colonel Flint, the contents of which I cabled to Jerusalem last night.

I am sorry that you hold the view that the alternative ways of handling the situation, which you presented to me in our talk of 16 May, have, to use your words, "somewhere along the line...become gravely twisted". I presume that you mean that more was read into your first proposal than was intended by you.

My clear understanding of your first proposal was that if we formally nullified Mr. Tekoah's letter on Colonel Flint, you on your side would be guided in practice by the views expressed in that letter - without of course necessarily agreeing with them - and consequently would ensure that there would be no further personal contact between Israeli officials and Colonel Flint. I regarded this as a practical, common-sense arrangement which, while preserving the amenities, would enable all of us to put this matter behind us and get on with our work. I cabled this understanding of your proposal to Jerusalem, in good faith. If I had had any doubts about it - I had none - they would have been set at rest by two things that occurred subsequently: on 20 May I telephoned you to say that I had been informed by Jerusalem of their decision to accept the first of the two alternatives proposed by you, which I described, to the best of my recollection, as formal cancellation of our letter on the understanding that you would henceforth act in its spirit. After expressing satisfaction with the decision, you said, or at least I understood you to say, that this would be so. On the following day the convoy went up without difficulty and Colonel Flint was demonstrably kept out of the picture. I had every reason to assume that this was done in accordance with what I fully believed was our understanding, and was very happy that we had jointly managed to avoid a quite unnecessary crisis.

It now transpires that my understanding of your 16 May proposal was inaccurate, and that your two alternatives were firstly, withdrawal of the letter and secondly, the presentation, I presume in writing, of specific complaints. Had I had any inkling at our meeting that this was indeed your intention, I would have told you there and then that in my view no real alternative was given and that the compromise was therefore no compromise. I do not think that the United Nations Secretariat can compel, or reasonably expect, a member state to cooperate with an official in whom, for reasons satisfactory to it, it has no confidence. You do of course appreciate that Mr. Tekoah's letter merely stated that matters which had hitherto been dealt with by Colonel Flint would henceforth be referred directly to UNTSO, that

is to say that Israel representatives would no longer cooperate with him personally. The letter did not ask for his dismissal, and there is thus no basis for comparison between this case and those of the United States staff members to which you and Mr. Cordier referred yesterday.

However, far more perturbing to me than this matter are certain remarks you made in our talk yesterday. You accused Israel of pursuing a policy of "attack" on Mount Scopus, and claimed that we had adopted a "pattern" of behaviour towards United Nations representatives the object of which was to render them incapable of fulfilling their duties. I am very much afraid that so long as the United Nations persists in seeing nearly every Israeli activity in an insidious light and as a challenge to its authority and prestige, the prospects of restoring genuine confidence and cooperation, which we both hold to be so desirable, will not be advanced.

Yours sincerely,

(s.) Kidron.

מדינת ישראל

ISRAEL

נציגות ישראל
באומות המאוחדות
ISRAEL MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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

DN 85242

Handwritten mark

The Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of Note dated 9 June 1958, informing him of Mr. Andrew W. Cordier's designation as representative of the Secretary-General to visit Mount Scopus.

A copy of this Note has been forwarded to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Israel.

Handwritten signature

New York,
10 June 1958

JUN 10 1958

RECEIVED
UNITED NATIONS

מדינת ישראל
ISRAEL

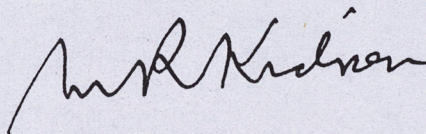
נציגות ישראל
באומות המאוחדות
DELEGATION OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

Ambassador Eban left this Israel
Tenth Anniversary Album with me for delivery
to you.

Yours sincerely,



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

11 November 1956

Dear Mr. Kidron,

.....

Enclosed please find a letter to Mrs. Meir. I would appreciate it if you would have it transmitted to the Foreign Minister as quickly as possible.

I assume that the necessary discussions may best be conducted here, as General Burns is likely to leave for New York very shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General

Encl.

Mr. Mordecai R. Kidron
Deputy Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
15 East 70th Street
New York 21, N.Y.

13 March 57

1. Ben Gurion states:

Israel reserves freedom of action in case Egyptians return to the Strip.

What is the interpretation of the Israel stand on Egyptian return (in concrete terms)?

2. If the Israeli stand is one which excludes a return of Egyptian civil administration, even in a limited form and in close collaboration with the United Nations, is that stand endorsed by any other Member?

3. Ben Gurion says:

If the time comes when action is appropriate and necessary, then the Government of Israel will not, of course, give prior notice of its action.

This seems to indicate an intention to resort to military action "in self-defence" in case of an "Egyptian return to Gaza", as interpreted by Israel. Is that stand endorsed by any other Member?

4. The quote in the previous point indicates that action "in self-defence" would be taken without resorting to the procedure prescribed in Article 51. Is that endorsed by any other Member?

5. Israeli spokesmen, in contact with the Secretariat, refer to "the understanding" concerning Gaza. Is there any such understanding, and, if so, does it cover any of the previous points? Is such an understanding, if it exists, by any Member considered as binding on the United Nations (or its Secretariat)?

6. Ben Gurion says:

I must express surprise at the statement attributed in the press to Dr. Bunche to the effect that UNEF is in the Strip with the agreement of Egypt. It is not in the power of the Egyptian dictator to agree or disagree to this, since he was ignominiously expelled from the Strip.

This statement indicates again that Israel considers that UN functions on the basis of authority transferred to it by the occupying power, Israel. Is the view endorsed by any other Member? If so, what means of action are envisaged for the UN, exerting such authority, if the UN would have to enforce an exclusion of Egypt from the Strip?

7. If the UN is in the Strip on the legal basis established by the Armistice Agreement, what other means of action than negotiation - without military pressure - has the UN, if it is considered that UN should exclude the return of civilian administrators which Egypt wishes to send to the Strip?

15 April 1957

Dear Mr. Kidron,

According to a report from Jerusalem, Jerusalem Post of 14 April states that Madame Meir in a public meeting in Tel Aviv on Saturday, referring to the development in the Gaza Strip said: "We had been profoundly disappointed by the lack of action of the UN" who knew what had been agreed upon and yet "let the Egyptians in again without having the authority to do so". Mrs. Meir is further reported to have said that Israel was prepared "to go to Court to clarify the silence of Mr. Hammarskjold". "If he feared that a return of the Egyptians was unavoidable, then he should have said so."

I would appreciate it if you would ascertain whether this report correctly renders what Mrs. Meir has stated in public. If so, I am sure you fully appreciate that the statement, like that made in the final paragraph of her letter of 9 April, represents an allegation of the greatest gravity which should be made only in a specific form and before a forum - in this case the General Assembly - where the other party has an opportunity to reply.

Mr. Mordecai R. Kidron
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations
15 East 70th Street
New York 21, N.Y.

20 June 1957

Dear Mr. Kidron,

By letter of 1 April 1957 I addressed, with the full concurrence of the Advisory Committee, certain questions to the Government of Israel concerning their willingness to accept deployment of UNEF on the Israeli side of the Armistice Demarcation Line at Gaza, in accordance with the request of the General Assembly.

According to a report received, the Foreign Minister of Israel, Mrs. Golda Meir, in the Knesset yesterday, in reply to a question, stated that "no UN force shall be stationed in any area of the State of Israel". This statement, if correctly rendered, seems to clarify the stand of the Government of Israel on the point raised in the letter of 1 April in implementation of the relevant resolution of the General Assembly.

If that assumption is correct, I would appreciate it if, in response to my letter of 1 April, to which so far I have not received any reply, you would confirm that the statement of the Foreign Minister may be considered as expressing the reaction of the Government of Israel to the demand of the General Assembly.

Sincerely yours,

Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary-General

Mr. Mordecai R. Kidron,
Permanent Mission of Israel
to the United Nations,
15 East 70th Street,
New York 21, N.Y.

COPIE

22 May 1958

Dear Mr. Kidron,

From the Chief of Staff, UNTSO, I have received a report on a conversation today with Mr. Eytan and Mr. Tekoah. It emerges from that report that the alternative ways of handling the situation, created by the recent letter from Mr. Tekoah on Colonel Flint, which I, together with Mr. Bunche, presented to you in a conversation, 16 May 1958, somewhere along the line have become gravely twisted. I therefore consider it necessary to restate our stand in the hope thus to straighten matters out.

You will remember that in our conversation, 16 May 1958, I characterized the letter on Flint as "unacceptable" and indicated that it could not serve as a basis for any kind of action from my side. That was so because unsubstantiated complaints against an official of the United Nations or the UNTSO could not be taken into account, if our operations are to continue on a basis of fairness and without opening possibilities for undue pressure from any party.

I indicated that in these circumstances we had to face two alternative lines of action; either the letter would have to be considered as "out of file" - by which I obviously meant that it should not continue to form part of the official record of relations between the United Nations and Israel - or else the complaints from Israel would have to be spelled out so as to enable me to form an independent judgment regarding the validity of possible charges of bias or incompetence. In the first case the letter, when annulled, would have served the purpose of bringing to our notice your discontent, while it was recognized as not having provided a basis on which any action on our side had to or could be taken. In the second case it would be for me as Secretary-General to evaluate the specific complaints and draw my independent conclusions, which obviously did not have to coincide with those drawn by the Israel Government.

Mr. Mordecai H. Kidron
Minister Plenipotentiary
Deputy Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
11 East 70th Street
New York City, N.Y.

It now seems that the Israel Government, in approving that the letter be regarded as "out of file", has misunderstood the situation in two respects; first, as regards the significance of this action and second, as to the formal character of that action itself. It thus appears that the Israel Government believes that the reference was only to Colonel Flint's personal file; However, it goes without saying that this would have been a purely internal matter on which I would never have consulted the Israel Government. It further appears that the Israel Government thinks that the withdrawal of the letter from the file would be combined with action from my side on the basis of that letter to the effect that Colonel Flint would be removed from dealing with Israel affairs. It may well be asked how, with this latter interpretation, my suggestion that the letter be taken out of the official UN-Israel file, could be regarded as an alternative to the presentation by Israel of specified complaints; the outcome in both cases would, with Israel's interpretation of the first alternative, have been the elimination of Flint. It is all the more difficult for me to understand how the misinterpretation could have arisen as the alternatives were presented against the background of the statement that the letter, as presented, was unacceptable; This obviously meant that it either had to be regarded as non-existent, also as a basis for action, or else followed up in a form which would at least call for serious consideration.

In judging the situation I trust that you will take into account its wide implications in principle. It is not the first time I have received unspecified complaints expressing discontent with representatives of the United Nations. The line consistently held has been the one reflected in the alternatives which I mentioned to you: either the complaints have had to be rendered specific so as to provide possibilities for an independent judgment and decision by the Secretary-General, or else they have had to be regarded as non-existent and without any consequence.

24 May 1958

Dear Mr. Kidron,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 23 May. Obviously, there is no point in prolonging this exchange. However, I feel that I should put on record the following points:

Certainly the United Nations cannot compel a Member State to cooperate with an official in whom it has no confidence. But, if that official is in the position of a representative of UNTSO, placed between two parties to an international agreement under which he functions - such a withdrawal of confidence cannot be recognised by those responsible for the operation, if the party resorting to the step is not in a position to justify its action by objectively valid reasons. I believe that further reflection will lead also you to the conclusion that any other stand would put the whole operation in jeopardy and, indeed, in the end render an arrangement of the type envisaged in the Armistice Agreement unworkable.

It is, thus, my seriously considered view that the distinction you make between dismissal and removal from dealing with Israel affairs cannot be upheld. I made it perfectly clear in our first talk that the Israel Government is entitled to address its communications directly to UNTSO, but you will not deny that, as the later development has amply clarified, the intention of Mr. Tekoah's letter went further.

I note that you have, in a letter which cannot be regarded as private, made the sweeping allegation that "the United Nations persists in seeing nearly every Israel activity in an insidious light". I limit myself to register deep disappointment that this should be your conclusion from months and years of frank and sincere personal exchanges.

You include in your letter quotations from a discussion which, I thought, was on a personal, man to man basis. Regarding the facts referred to in those quotations, I can assure you that if and when some questions which I fear that any objective observer of certain recent developments is bound to put to himself would seem to me to call for action, I would address myself openly and in my own words to the Israel Government.

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

Delivered by hand
9 June '58

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, and has the honour to request that his Government be informed that the Secretary-General has designated Mr. Andrew W. Cordier, Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General, as his specially designated representative to visit Mount Scopus in accordance with the terms of paragraph four of the Report on Mount Scopus of Dr. Francisco Urrutia of 18 January, and that Mr. Cordier will be arriving in the Near East toward the end of this week for a stay of about one week.

9 June 1958

same letter sent to Jordan

22 July 1958

I am very pleased to have the book published on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the State of Israel, which Ambassador Eban was kind enough to send me.

Would you thank him for me?

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld.

Mr. Mordecai R. Kidron,
Acting Permanent Representative
of Israel to the United Nations,
Permanent Mission of Israel to
the United Nations,
11 East 70th Street,
New York 21, N.Y.