

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

HS L 179:183



Dag Hammarskjölds samt. Jerusalem Press.

L 179: 183

Re. Israel

PRESS

CABLES

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29 Jan 1960

CORDIER/dg

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UNTSO JERUSALEM ~~SECRET~~

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MOST IMMEDIATE

For Von Horn Your text perfectly satisfactory in fact excellent

Cordier

Andrew W. Cordier Exec Asst to the SG

3800

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29 Jan 1960

CORDIER/dg

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Cordier

Andrew W. Cordier Exec Asst to the SG

22 Feb 60

Cordier/dg

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UNATIONS

IMMEDIATE

JERUSALEM

For Ven Horn I transmit herewith text of letter dated 18 February 1960 from the Acting ~~X~~ Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic addressed to the President of the Security Council and issued as document S4268 colon

Quote (Cable editor: here quote ~~attached~~ text) Unquote

CORDIER

Andrew W. Cordier Executive Assistant  
to the Secretary-General

25 Feb. 1960 AWC

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UNATIONS  
JERUSALEM

FOR VON HOHN. Advance copies your report given to Israel and UAR Delegations  
this morning. New subject. Letter from Israel Delegation received. Text  
follows:

(quote attached letter)

Will be circulated as Security Council document.

S/4271

Cordier

A.W.Cordier, Executive Asst to Sec.Gen

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

3 February 1960

Following is the text of a letter, dated today (3 February), from Omar Loutfi, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic to the United Nations, to Sir Pierson Dixon, President of the UN Security Council:

I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, to bring to your attention, as President of the Security Council, a renewed act of aggression by the Israeli armed forces on the United Arab Republic (Syrian region) in violation of the Armistice Agreement.

At 1255 hours (local time) on January 31, 1960, Israeli forces moved towards Arab farmers in the Southern Sector of the Demilitarized Zone North of Lake Tiberias. The farmers were accompanied by a U.N. Observer. The Israeli forces opened fire at 1330 hours.

On the same day General von Horn requested an emergency meeting of the Syrian-Israeli Mixed Armistice Commission to which we agreed, although Israel's position in this connection is not known.

At midnight January 31, and on February 1st, the Israelis shelled some of our positions in the Southern Sector to which reference has already been made, attempting to occupy the village of Tawafik.

At 300 hours on February 1st, the Israelis resumed their firing on our positions in the same Sector, and our artillery returned the fire. The Israelis then occupied the village of Tawafik, but subsequently they were compelled to withdraw by our forces at 530 hours on the same day.

At 830 hours of the same day, the Israelis reengaged our forces using all weapons.

At 11 hours again on the same day, Israeli planes violated the air space of the Syrian region and were engaged by our planes.

At 2030 hours another engagement took place between Arab and Israeli patrols. Israeli forces opened fire, using 120 mm caliber mortars on the village of Tawafik.

(more)

In the afternoon of February 1st, Israeli forces began to evacuate some of the Israeli settlements on the Armistice demarcation line (Kafer Szold, Kafer Shamir).

Israeli forces are being continually reinforced along the Armistice demarcation line.

The above acts of aggression leave no room for doubt about the intention of Israel to pursue its planned aggressive policy in the demilitarized zone in order to occupy the area, in the manner which they have followed in occupying the Auja demilitarized zone, in violation of the Armistice Agreements.

The Government of the United Arab Republic takes a most serious view of this threat by Israel to the peace and security of the area.

While reserving the right of my delegation to pursue this grave matter further, I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated to all members of the Security Council.

\* \* \* \* \*

25 Feb. 1960      AWG

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UNATIONS  
JERUSALEM

FOR VON HORN. Advance copies your report given to Israel and UAR Delegations  
this morning. New subject. Letter from Israel Delegation received. Text  
follows:

(quote attached letter)

Will be circulated as Security Council document.

Cordier

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

25 February 1960

Excellency,

On instruction from my Government, I have the honour, further to my letter of 3 February 1960 (S/4264), to refer again to the policy of aggression pursued by the United Arab Republic against Israel.

Certain communications submitted to the Security Council might tend to blur the fundamental issues of this dangerous situation. Past experience in Israel-Arab relations has demonstrated the perils inherent in the disregard for the basic attitudes of the Parties. Diversion of attention, instead, to technical details of secondary importance, frequently leaves the real maladies unattended. The Government of Israel deems it, therefore, necessary to draw the attention of the Security Council to the following facts.

1. Syrian armed forces invaded Israel on 15 May 1948, within twenty-four hours of her establishment, in an attempt to thwart Israel's independence which had been endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations.
2. On 20 July 1949 Israel and Syria signed a General Armistice Agreement which provided in its First Article for the establishment of peace and declared that "no aggressive action by the armed forces - land, sea or air - of either Party shall be undertaken, planned, or threatened against the people or the armed forces of the other."

Despite these clear obligations Syria has persistently refused to conclude a peace settlement and has continued to pursue a policy of active hostility towards Israel. By means of this policy Syria has dangerously undermined the Armistice structure and deprived the Armistice Agreement of much of its meaning and effectiveness.

3. The invading Syrian armies that crossed the international frontier in 1948 occupied and ravaged certain areas inside Israel. They were still in occupation of these areas when Israel repelled the invading forces of other Arab states, signed Armistice Agreements with them, and was ready to dislodge also the Syrian aggressor. At the urging of United Nations representatives Israel agreed not to occupy these areas militarily if the Syrian armies withdrew by themselves from Israel soil. There were to be no other restrictions on Israel in her territories thus regained. In order to ensure that Syria would have no grounds to claim any rights in these areas on the strength of their previous occupation by Syrian forces, it was agreed that other Israel areas which had not come under Syrian occupation be added to them so as to constitute together a Demilitarized Zone on the Israel side of the international boundary. Similarly, a small Demilitarized Zone was established on the Syrian side of the border.

4. Nevertheless, ever since the signing of the General Armistice Agreement, Syria strove to interfere in the Demilitarized Zone on the Israel side of the frontier, and to prevent the economic development of the area by Israel.

Thus, in 1951, Syria launched an armed assault against the drainage of the Huleh marshes. The Security Council rejected Syrian claims and drainage work was resumed. It was completed in 1957.

In 1953, Syria started a campaign against the utilization by Israel of the Jordan waters for the generation of hydroelectric power. The Security Council voted on a resolution which would have given approval to the undertaking. The resolution was supported by seven members with two abstentions. It was not adopted, however, because of the negative vote of a Permanent Member of the Council.

In 1955, persistent Syrian attacks on Israeli fishermen on Lake Kinneret (Tiberias), situated entirely inside Israel territory, reached a climax, compelling Israel to take action in self-defence.

In 1957, Syrian forces carried out repeated attacks on Israel farmers and workers pursuing their peaceful activities near the border.

In December 1958 and January 1959, Syrian artillery positions in the hills bombarded Israeli villages in the Huleh Valley. In summarizing the debate on an Israel complaint about these acts of aggression the President of the Security Council declared: "We fully recognize the gravity of the action about which Israel has complained."

5. Throughout this period Israel sought to put an end to Syria's continuous acts of hostility.

On 11 July 1957 Israel requested the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization to establish United Nations observation posts along the Israel-Syrian border. It was hoped that they might deter the Syrian authorities from pursuing their acts of aggression. These posts still exist, but Syrian attacks across the border and penetrations into Israel territory continue. Syrian military positions still encroach on Israel territory, for instance at Darbashiya, at Tel-Azaziat, and at the mouth of the Jordan on the northern shore of Lake Kinneret. The continuation of Syrian violations of the Armistice Agreement in these areas as well as in the areas of Nuqeib and El-Hamma creates a constant threat to peace.

On 12 August 1957 the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitted to the Government of Syria Israel's inquiry whether Syria "considers itself bound by all the provisions of Article I of the General Armistice Agreement and if it is prepared, in compliance with that Article, to confirm that it regards the Armistice as an indispensable step towards the restoration of peace between Israel and Syria, and to renounce all acts of belligerency, including the planning of armed action and the utterance of threats against the security and integrity of Israel". The Syrian Government did not reply.

During his last visit to Jerusalem in January 1959 the Secretary-General proposed the marking of the boundary between Israel and Syria. Israel agreed. Syrian objections have so far prevented the marking from being carried out.

6. The recrudescence of Syrian attacks along the border in recent weeks was described in detail in my letter of 3 February 1960 to the President of the Security Council.

More Syrian acts of aggression have taken place since then; the most serious of them on 12 February when two Israelis were killed and one wounded in the Huleh region.

In the Tawfiq area Syrian military positions are still maintained inside the Demilitarized Zone despite United Nations Truce Supervision requests to remove them. There are no Israeli army forces in the Zone.

In order to deal constructively with this tense situation, Israel proposed on 7 February 1960, that a meeting be convened between representatives of the Israel village of Beth Katzir and the Arab village of Tawfiq to settle the differences between them concerning land cultivation. In making the proposal Israel reiterated that "we recognize the rights of certain Arabs to cultivate their land

in the (demilitarized) Zone and will enable them to do so, provided that, in respect of such cultivation as in every other respect within the Zone, there is no entry or intervention on the part of the Syrian authorities."

Israel, moreover, suggested to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization on 4 February 1960 to call a meeting between Israel and Syrian representatives "within the procedures of the Mixed Armistice Commission or otherwise, to discuss peace, complete peace, or if not that, to discuss means to preserve quiet and tranquility along the International Boundary, as long as nothing pertaining to the Demilitarized Zone west of that Boundary is raised."

The above two proposals still stand.

It would appear that in this situation "decisions" such as those quoted in the letter (S/4268 of 19 February 1960) from the Acting Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic to the President of the Security Council are of dubious value. They were adopted at a meeting of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission at which the Commission was lacking its essential quality - the participation of the two Parties to the Armistice Agreement. Furthermore, in the absence of one of the Parties, only complaints submitted by the other Party were discussed. In this connexion it is to be observed that the Report dated 4 February 1960 of an investigation carried out by a United Nations Military Observer on the basis of the Syrian complaint discussed at the above meeting, stated, inter alia :

"The main part of the village was circled by a continuous trench about 1 - 1½ metres deep, of irregular course, but generally forming the perimeter of the village. The trench was formed by building up a wall with stones to form a parapet and parados. The bottom of the trench had a straight wall and appeared to have been made or repaired not more than two weeks earlier. At intervals of 15 metres, firing slots, suitable for riflemen, had been made in the stone parapet of the trench. At the eastern side the trench ran out of the village for a distance of 150 metres until it entered the cover of the wadi at MR 2097 2342.

The village was entirely surrounded by barbed wire entanglement placed about 40 metres from the trench. A second wire entanglement, in the form of a half circle beginning and ending at the first wire enclosed the second part of the village... There were no signs that the buildings had been used for human occupancy for several months... None of the buildings had windows or doors."

The following military equipment was found in the above Syrian army positions at Tawfiq, within the Demilitarized Zone, in the course of the Israel action on 1 February 1960 aimed at dislodging this illegal military post :

- One Czech anti-tank recoilless gun 82 mm.
- 20 rounds for the above gun
- One Soviet anti-tank gun 82 mm.
- 10 rounds of shells for the above gun
- 2 Soviet medium machine guns 7.62 mm.
- 5000 bullets for the above machine guns
- 6 Soviet automatic carbines 7.62 mm.
- 100 bullets for the above carbines
- One field telephone
- Military personal equipment

The Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization was informed of the above.

7. Syria, as a province of the United Arab Republic, has identified herself with Egypt's continued acts of warfare against Israel on land and on sea. The Security Council is aware of the fact that the United Arab Republic has been intensifying her policy of hostility against Israel and that her campaign of open incitement to war has reached dangerous dimensions.

The latest in a series of aggressive declarations were made by President Nasser in the course of a tour in Syria, where he repeatedly proclaimed his country's policy of war, blockade and boycott against Israel, threatening her with destruction in a "sacred march".

These warlike threats are accompanied by extensive military preparations, in both provinces of the United Arab Republic, directed against Israel.

In these circumstances, if tranquility is to be ensured in the area, the United Arab Republic must abandon her policy of hostility. It must cease its campaign of incitement to war and desist from acts of aggression. Only renunciation of this policy, which is contrary to all international obligations, could make it possible effectively to bolster United Nations authority and to secure compliance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. It is therefore essential to direct all efforts towards terminating this illegal and dangerous policy.

The Government of Israel wishes to reiterate that as an immediate step toward the elimination of tension, Israel is ready to meet with Syrian representatives to discuss measures for ensuring peace on the border, and with the villagers of Tawfiq in order to settle differences regarding land cultivation.

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

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

Yosef Tekoah  
Acting Permanent Representative  
of Israel to the United Nations

H.E. Sir Pierson Dixon, G.C.M.G., C.B.  
The President  
Security Council  
United Nations  
New York, N.Y.

3 Feb 1960 CORDIER/dg

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UNTSO JERUSALEM

DO NOT EDIT  
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For Von Horn I transmit herewith texts letters received by Secgen today from  
Permanent Representatives UAR and Israel stop

Quote

(Cable Editor: quote attached texts as indicated

Unquote

Andrew W. Cordier Executive Assistant  
to the Secretary-General



מדינת ישראל

ISRAEL

נציגות ישראל  
באומות המאוחדות  
DELEGATION OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

11 EAST 70TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK  
TRAPALGAR 9-7800

3 February 1960

Excellency,

I have the honour, on behalf of my Government, to bring to the attention of the Security Council the recent acts of aggression committed by the armed forces of the United Arab Republic against Israel along the Israel-Syrian frontier.

Since December 1959 the area of the village of Beth Katzir in the demilitarized zone near the Syrian border south-east of Lake Kinneret has been subjected to repeated harrassments and attacks from Syrian military positions at Tawfiq. These military positions were illegally established beyond Syria's international boundary in violation of the General Armistice Agreement and were situated inside the demilitarized zone in ruined and deserted houses at Tawfiq.

Six hundred Israel complaints lodged with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, since 1957, and repeated attempts by the United Nations to remove the illegal fortifications, were of no avail.

In November 1957 these Syrian military positions launched an attack on Israel villagers, working on their land in the presence of United Nations observers, killing one Israel policeman and wounding another. Since then relative quiet prevailed in the area until mid-December 1959 when Syria renewed her acts of aggression with the obvious intent of upsetting the status quo and gaining control over land outside her territory.

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

The tactics adopted were to send to the area Syrian soldiers, frequently dressed in civilian clothes but equipped with army rifles and sub-machine guns, who under the pretext of farming used to cross the ditch separating land cultivated by Israelis from land under Arab cultivation in order to gain control over additional parts of the zone. Israelis approaching the Syrians in the field to prevent the encroachments, were attacked by them with the support of heavy fire from the military positions at Tawfiq.

The Syrian armed penetrations assumed in the last weeks the character of systematic incursions and attacks.

On 24 December 1959 fire opened from the Tawfiq outposts killed an Israel policeman.

On 26 January 1960 Syrian soldiers, accompanying ploughmen, penetrated into the area but withdrew when an Israel police patrol approached and called upon them to leave.

The next day the Syrians appeared in the area several times but at first withdrew each time Israel police in an armoured car shouted at them to leave. Later, however, they opened fire at the Israel police who replied with several warning shots in the air. Single shots were exchanged for some time between the armed Syrians and the police. Later in the day, the military positions at Tawfiq opened heavy fire on a wider area.

On 28 January a similar attempt at penetration into the area took place.

In the morning of 29 January the Syrians appeared again but left shortly afterwards before being challenged. In the meantime the Syrian army was observed concentrating forces and occupying firing positions in and around Tawfiq. In the afternoon the encroachments resumed. Rifle and machine-gun fire was opened from the Syrian outposts when Israel policemen approached and fired warning shots.

In the morning of 30 January the Syrian military positions, illegally maintained at Tawfiq in the demilitarized zone, attacked an Israel police patrol with rifle and machine-gun fire. In the afternoon mortar fire was

directed against the fields of Beth Katzir. The fields were set afire. When the Israeli villagers attempted to put the fire out they came under fire from the Syrian military positions.

On 31 January the Director of Armistice Affairs in the Israel Ministry for Foreign Affairs informed the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, in reply to a proposal made by the latter, that Israel is prepared "to meet with the other Party to discuss means of preventing recurrence of shooting or penetration from across the international boundary into the demilitarized zone".

On the same day the Syrians advanced again into the area and when an Israel police patrol appeared there, it was attacked by strong rifle, machine-gun and mortar fire. Three policemen were wounded, one of them seriously. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization called on the Syrians not to interfere with the evacuation of the seriously wounded policeman who had remained in the field. The Syrians refused. When, after two hours the policeman was finally reached, he was found dead.

After midnight, on 1 February, the Syrian military positions started shelling the fields of Beth Katzir. In order to put an end to these attacks Israel Defence Forces cleared the positions in the demilitarized zone of Syrian military forces illegally entrenched there.

On 1 February the Syrian Army Command issued a communique announcing that Syrian forces had returned to Tawfiq and the adjoining hills, thus confirming the continued breach of the Armistice provisions.

On the same day United Arab Republic jet fighters were driven off by Israel fighters from above Metullah in Israel territory.

In the afternoon of 1 February the Syrian positions subjected Beth Katzir to artillery and mortar bombardment. The fire was not returned from the Israel side.

During the night of 1 - 2 February Syrian positions directed intermittent rifle and automatic fire against Beth Katzir and the surrounding area.

The above events were surveyed by the Prime Minister of Israel in the Knesset in Jerusalem on 1 February 1960. Mr. Ben-Gurion explained inter alia that Israel recognized the rights of local Arabs to cultivate their land. Israel did not, however, recognize that Syria had any right to interfere in the zone. The United Nations had been notified of this, the Prime Minister said, and accordingly Arabs had been permitted to cultivate their land. In recent days, however, Syrian soldiers, disguised as civilians had crossed the ditch beyond which, as we had made clear beforehand, they were not entitled to move. After a policeman was killed (on 31 January) and when appeals to the United Nations to secure a cessation of the Syrian attempts to plough in the area were of no avail, we felt compelled, Mr. Ben-Gurion declared, to remove the Syrian outpost. Israel would continue to permit rightful landowners to cultivate land in the zone, but this permission did not extend to the Government, the forces or the police of Syria. If the United Nations were unable to remove the Syrian forces from the demilitarized zone, the Prime Minister added, Israel would be compelled to do so by herself.

On 2 February Israel representatives requested the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization to effect an immediate withdrawal of Syrian forces from Tawfiq and the demilitarized zone in general. In the evening of that day the United Nations Chairman of the Israel-Syrian Armistice Commission informed the Senior Israel Delegate that United Nations observers had confirmed the presence of Syrian army units in the demilitarized zone and that the chairman had urgently requested the Syrian delegation to withdraw all armed forces posted in the demilitarized zone. The Chairman requested Israel to withdraw Israeli armed personnel from the zone. There are no Israeli troops in the demilitarized zone.

The United Arab Republic continues to claim and exercise rights of war against Israel. The acts of aggression perpetrated by Syrian military positions in the demilitarized zone came in the wake of an intensification by the United Arab Republic of her policy of active belligerency towards Israel. In recent months

she has increased her interference with freedom of navigation in the Suez canal despite efforts by the Secretary-General and maritime Powers to bring an end to such interference. Her Government information media as well as her leaders persist in preaching hostility and calling for war against Israel.

As the Government of Israel has pointed out in previous communications to the Security Council, this policy creates a constant threat to peace in the area.

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

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

Yosef Tekoah  
Acting Permanent Representative  
of Israel to the United Nations