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14 - 15 May 56

Tekoah, Y. (Dir. of Armistice Affairs, Israel)

- 3 letters to Gen. Burns, UNTSO.

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Y

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Jerusalem, Israel

Jerusalem, 14 May 1956

Dear General Burns,

I refer to your letter of 9 May 1956 regarding the approach of an Israel patrol to the Demarcation Line along the Gaza Strip.

Israel's policy with respect to patrolling along the Demarcation Line in the Gaza area was described in the Aide-Mémoire submitted to the Secretary-General of the U.N. on 2 May 1956.

The Aide-Mémoire stated:

"Israel's policy with respect to patrolling along the Demarcation Line in the Gaza area is that the times and places for the operation of military patrols are governed by security considerations. Israel will send patrols along the Demarcation Line itself only when necessary for security reasons.

This explanation of Israel's policy is given for the convenience of the Secretary-General."

It should be clear that in view of the above explanation, the occasional appearance of Israel's military vehicles or patrols near the border line cannot serve as a valid ground for complaints.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, I should also like to observe that according to the arrangement on Observation Posts and U.N. patrols along the Demarcation Line in the Gaza area, reached

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Chief of Staff
UNTSO
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in principle, the reports of U.N. Observers in Observation Posts and on Patrols "shall cover violations of Article II (2), shall be directed to the MAC, and shall be used in the examination of complaints in the Commission". This provision is of course equally applicable to UN Observers operating on either side of the Demarcation Line.

Sincerely yours,

Y. Tekoah
Director of Armistice Affairs

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O
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Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Jerusalem, Israel

Jerusalem, 14 May 1956

Dear General Burns,

I am directed to refer to your letter of 10 May 1956 to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in which you express the apprehension that the question of convening a meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission may prove an obstacle in the way of establishing a number of United Nations Observation Posts along the Gaza area, as has been agreed.

I should like to assure you that it is our intention to avert any such difficulty in executing the arrangement reached in principle on the matter of Observation Posts. For that reason we do not believe it advisable to link this question with the complex problem of Nitzana, which in the conversations with the Secretary-General was left in abeyance pending agreement on the full and integral implementation of the General Armistice Agreement.

In view of the fact that the posts are to be established along the Gaza area, it would seem appropriate for the Chairman to call a special meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission at Kilometre 95 (or even at Migdal, where the Commission had met at least once in the past). Should the Egyptians refuse to attend

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such a meeting, the Israel Delegation would be prepared to proceed in their absence with the arrangements for the establishment of the Observation Posts.

Yours sincerely,

/s/

Y. Tekoah
Director of Armistice Affairs

Text of Letter from Mr. Tekoah to General Burns
Received 15 May 1956

(as transmitted by cable to HQ same day)

"We do not believe it advisable to link the question (of establishing fixed United Nations observer posts along the Gaza Strip) with the complex problem of Nitzana which in the conversations with the Secretary-General was left in abeyance pending agreement on the full and integral implementation of the General Armistice Agreement."