

**Middle East - Suez story No  
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19-22 June 56

Myerson, Golda (Israeli Minister for Foreign  
Affairs)

- 1 letter from Gen. Burns
- 1 message to Q.H.

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HEADQUARTERS  
TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION

Jerusalem, 19 June 1956

Madam,

I should like to refer to the following passage in the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council dated 9 May 1956 (S/3596, page 25):

"Israel would, nevertheless, be prepared, after the lapse of a month, to consider a proposal by the Chief of Staff for the establishment of a UN Military Observer Post (on the Northern shore of Lake Tiberias), should he then consider it desirable."

The number of Israeli complaints against Syria relating to the Eastern and North-Eastern sections of Lake Tiberias during the one month period, 9 May - 11 June 1956, renders, in my opinion, the establishment of the UN Observer Post in question very desirable.

Israeli complaint 135 refers to a shot fired on 9 May at Israeli fisherman from MR 098-557. Israeli complaint 136 refers to five shots fired on 12 May at Israeli fishermen from MR 087-551. Complaint 144 refers to the presence of a Syrian fishing boat at MR 080-550 on 22 May. Complaint 146 refers to the presence of a

Mrs. Golda Myersen  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
ISRAEL

Syrian fishing boat at MR 082-554 on 23 May. The presence of a Syrian boat on the Lake on the same day is referred to in complaint 148. Complaint 153 refers to the presence of three Syrian fishing boats opposite Massadiyah on 25 May. Complaint 173 refers to the presence of a Syrian fishing boat at approximately MR 084-550 on 10 June. Complaint 176 refers to the presence of a Syrian fishing boat at approximately MR 084-552 on 11 June.

I am convinced that the establishment of a UN Observer Post on the Israel side of the Demarcation Line not only would assist in facilitating the investigation of a number of complaints such as those above, but would also have a preventive value. The Syrian Authorities have agreed to the establishment of an Observation Post on the Syrian side of the Demarcation Line. The effectiveness of this Post would be greatly increased if the Israel Authorities also agreed to the establishment of an Observation Post on the Israel side.

Such a post would be established in cooperation with the Israel Authorities. The Senior Israel Delegate and the Chairman of the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission could, as a first step, visit the area in order to find a suitable location.

I should be glad to receive the concurrence of the Government of Israel in this proposal, in order that the action proposed in the previous paragraph may be initiated.

Accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

E.L.M. Burns  
Major General  
Chief of Staff

מדינת ישראל

ISRAEL

נציגות ישראל  
באומות המאוחדות

DELEGATION OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

U R G E N T

11 EAST 70TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK

TRAFALGAR 9-7600

22nd June  
1956.

Text of Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Israel to the Secretary-General of the  
United Nations

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

You will be aware that on 7 June a protest was submitted on behalf of the Government of Israel to the President of the Security Council with reference to the action of the Egyptian Government in holding up the transit of a Greek vessel SS Panagia bound from Haifa to Elath with a cargo of cement.

In view of the fact that our protest remained without effect, Mr. Kidron, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, was requested to invite your urgent intervention with the Egyptian Government and we are glad to learn that it was your intention to take immediate action in the matter.

Information received today indicates that the Egyptian authorities have now expressly informed the Captain of the vessel that he will not be permitted to pass through the Canal in order to proceed to Elath.

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You will recall that during conversations which you had here with the Prime Minister he pointed out the far-reaching implications of the continuation of Egyptian blockade measures and their direct bearing on the maintenance of international peace and security. We were glad that you recognised the importance of this matter and took it upon yourself to endeavour to bring about a change in Egyptian policy.

Unhappily it now appears that in the meanwhile the situation, instead of improving, has deteriorated still further. We are bound to emphasise the gravity of the latest development which marks a serious additional restriction, both in principle and practice, on the passage of Israel goods and shipping through the Canal. The blockade practices of the Egyptian Government in which we were at no time prepared to acquiesce and which have been condemned by the Security Council, have now been most seriously aggravated. The anomaly of the maintenance of an illegal and unilateral belligerence on the part of the Egyptian Government, which has likewise been condemned by the Council, and is also in contravention to Article 1 of the General Armistice Agreement, has created a situation which has become interolable.

I would ask most urgently to be advised by you of the results of your intervention with the Egyptian authorities.

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

Golda Myerson

The Secretary-General,  
United Nations,  
New York.