

**Small files: Israel -
Israel-Jordan border,
Israel-Syria border, Said
Al-Sh...**

HS L 179:184



National Library
of Sweden

Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Israel - Syria border

29 May 57

- „Oral Point“ for use by the Chief of Staff
- Aide memoire for possible use by Chief of Staff

CONFIDENTIAL

29 May 1957

"Oral Point" for use by the Chief of Staff

Since assuming my duties as Acting Chief of Staff, I have maintained close contact with the Secretary-General, reviewing with him a number of problems, among them that of the demilitarized zone. He is in agreement with the position set forth in this aide mémoire.

29 May 1957

AIDE MEMOIRE FOR POSSIBLE USE BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF

1. My position as Chief of Staff and Chairman of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission on the question of the possible resumption of work in the Demilitarized Zone in connection with the Banat Yakoub Canal project must be governed by the following main considerations:

2. A decision on this matter was made by General Vagn Bennike on 23 September 1953. In paragraph 9 of this decision, the Chief of Staff requested the Israeli Government "to ensure that the authority which started work in the Demilitarized Zone on 2 September 1953 is instructed to cease working in the Zone so long as an agreement is not arranged."

3. Following a Syrian request dated 16 October 1953, the matter was placed on the agenda of the Security Council. On 27 October 1953, the Security Council adopted a resolution in which it deemed it desirable "that the works started in the Demilitarized Zone on 2 September 1953 should be suspended during the urgent examination of the question by the Security Council." By the same resolution the Security Council noted with satisfaction the statement of the Israeli representative regarding the undertaking of his Government to suspend the works in question during that examination.

4. On 22 January 1954 a draft resolution (S/3151/Rev.2) was put to the vote in the Security Council. This draft resolution, although not adopted, is of interest as it reflects the attitude of members of the Council. The draft resolution endorsed the request of the Chief of Staff addressed to the Government of Israel, and requested him "to explore possibilities of reconciling the Israeli and Syrian interests involved in the dispute over the diversion of Jordan waters at Banat Yakoub." The draft resolution also requested the Governments of Israel and Syria to cooperate with the Chief of Staff to this end. Although the draft resolution obtained the support of seven members of the Council, it was not adopted owing to the negative vote of one of its permanent members. In the discussion which preceded the vote, the representative of the permanent member concerned made it clear that the basis of his negative vote was the absence of a reference in paragraph 8 of the draft resolution to the principle of mutual consent of the Parties, namely, the Governments of Israel and Syria. (656th meeting, P.21)

5. The question of the resumption in the Demilitarized Zone of work connected with the Israeli Canal project should be taken up in the first instance with the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, in his capacity as Chairman of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, in accordance with Article V, paragraph 5 of the General Armistice Agreement between Israel and Syria.

6. If the question were taken up formally with the Chief of Staff, the latter would consider it. Bearing in mind the Security Council's resolution of 27 October 1953, he would have to take into account (a) whether or not the conditions posed by General Bennike on 23 September 1953 had been satisfied; (b) the present and future plans for and use of the diversion project in the Demilitarized Zone; (c) the immediate consequences of any new decision on the integrity of the Demilitarized Zone under the Armistice Agreement; and (d) any possible consideration and action by the Security Council which is still seized of the matter following the Syrian request of 16 October 1953. The Chief of Staff considers that during his examination of the matter and pending his decision, work in the Demilitarized Zone must remain suspended.