

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

*HS L 179:184*



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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Israel - Syria border

8-13 Feb. 60

- Aide-Memoire on the Problems of the Syrian-Israeli Demilitarized Zones.  
(from Perm. Mission of U.A.R. to the U.N.)
- Aide-memoire re "Maaman Allali" Cemetery
- 2 letters from R. Bunche to D.H.

2/13/60

To: The Secretary-General  
Alpha made no request with regard to either of them. He was quite content when I told him that we would inquire of our Horn about the facts of the cemetery story. The D Z paper is for your information - and duplication - only. Reph

2/12/60

To: The Secretary-General  
These are the two papers which you saw at lunch. Although one is dated Feb. 8, both were presented only this noon,

Reph

What is the status of these papers? H

A I D E - M E M O I R E

1. On 26 October 1959, the Jerusalem Post published an article stating that the Israeli Authorities have converted "Maaman Allah" Cemetery in Jerusalem, situated on an Islamic Waqf and with an area of 28 acres, into a public park and a playground for children.
2. The remains of a number of Arab heroes who accompanied Salah Eddine in his wars against the Crusaders in the Holy Land are interned in this cemetery.
3. In addition to the flagrant violation of the Muslim sacred places, this action is contrary to the principles of human rights and the Charter of the United Nations.

February 8, 1960.

From Aisha (Marriage Damila)  
12 Feb. 60.

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK.

A I D E - M E M O I R E

on the Problems of the Syrian-Israeli Demilitarized  
Zones.

A thorough examination of the events which took place during the last decade in the Demilitarized Zone would lead to the following conclusions which I shall try to illustrate later on:

1. In the first place the Mixed Armistice Commission which was provided for in the Armistice Agreement between Syria, on the one hand, and Israel, on the other has been rendered ineffective due to Israel's interpretation of the responsibilities of the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission regarding the Demilitarized Zone.

2. Israel exploited this weakness in the operation of the Mixed Armistice Commission to the utmost and they have consequently, ever since the beginning, contravened the letter and spirit of the Armistice Agreement in a series of acts in the Demilitarized Zone.

3. Following this course Israel was able to lay its hands on large parts of the Demilitarized Zone and to expell its Arab owners after having destroyed their abode. They are now exploiting these Arab owned lands without any qualms, as if they owned the lands. The Syrian side has on various occasions, during this decade filed protests with the Mixed Armistice Commission and

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brought even certain matters to the attention of the Security Council. However, regardless of all the injunctions that were made against Israel, nothing effective was done to change the fait accompli.

The following examples will illustrate this situation:

I. General problems relating to the Demilitarized Zone.

A. Israel's boycott of the Mixed Armistice Commission.

Since 1951 Israel has refused to attend the official meetings of the Mixed Armistice Commission, in particular those meetings which were called to consider complaints regarding the Demilitarized Zone. Israel continues erroneously to take the position that conditions in the Demilitarized Zone are of the responsibility of the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission and of Israel herself, while Syria has no right to interfere in that connection. This erroneous interpretation of the Armistice Agreement aims at paralyzing the Mixed Armistice Commission and is leading to the full control by Israel of the Demilitarized Zone.

B. The land, air and sea activity of Israeli armed forces in the Demilitarized Zone.

Israel has not limited its role in the Zone to the stationing of some regular police forces, as specified in the Armistice Agreement, but has sent in its army units with full equipment, including armed vehicles and tanks.

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The Syrian delegation to the Mixed Armistice Commission has filed many protests regarding this point.

In addition Israel has sent some armed boats into Lake Tiberias, irrespective of the fact that the lake is considered in the Armistice Agreement as a defensive zone which should be free from any military activity.

Even the Israeli air forces have on various occasions breached the rules stipulated in the Armistice Agreement, for they have flown over the defensive zone and at times penetrated deep into Syrian territory for exploratory and photographic purposes.

In spite of the hundreds of complaints which Syria has made about this military activity by Israel, the UNTSO took no effective action to stop it.

C. Local civilian police in the Demilitarized Zone.

In spite of all the efforts that were made by the Chief of Staff of the UNTSO to establish a local civilian police in the Demilitarized Zone in conformity with Article 5 C of the Armistice Agreement, nothing has materialized so far and the Israeli regular police continue to be active in the Demilitarized Zone openly and with the full knowledge of the UNTSO.

D. Israeli fortifications in the Demilitarized Zone.

There are special reports indicating there is a series of fortifications and mined areas in the Demilitarized Zone, both

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in the old and the new settlements. The Israeli authorities have always refused to allow the United Nations Observers to go to these fortified areas.

E. Position of the Chairmen of the Mixed Armistice Commission.

Ever since Israel decided to boycott the official meetings of the Mixed Armistice Commission, the Chairmen of that Commission began to take a negative position regarding its activity. Thus they began not to call for meetings of the Commission under the pretext that Israel refuses to attend whenever complaints regarding the Demilitarized Zone are at stake. This lukewarm position of the Chairmen and the fact that they have often limited their interest to conducting inquiries regarding any firing that occurred from either side abetted Israel's aggressiveness and encouraged it to impose its sovereignty on the Demilitarized Zone and to ignore Arab rights therein. It is opportune to state in this connection that the Chairmen of the Mixed Armistice Commission have invariably supported the rightness of the Syrian interpretation of the Armistice Agreement. On the other hand they have always shown their inability to deal with the complaints in a serious manner.

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Let us, for the sake of further clarity refer to specific instances of violations by Israel.

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In the first place, in the northern sector of the Demilitarized Zone:

A. Forceful occupation of three lots of Arab land which was reserved to the Arabs by the Huleh project.

These lots follow the coast of the lake and stretch north and south of the Israeli settlement of Dardara.

B. The bridge case.

In 1957 Israel built a bridge at the outlet of the Jordan from the Huleh lake. At that time the Syrian Government brought the matter of this bridge to the Security Council and protested that this bridge would give Israeli a military advantage contrary to the stipulations of the Armistice Agreement. Israel at the time retorted by claiming that the purpose of the bridge was temporary and the construction of the bridge was linked with the draining of the Huleh lake. The draining process, however, was completed and the bridge continue to exist, nay, it was bolstered up to give it a capacity of receiving 70 to 80 tons of load. Consequently, now, it is good for the passage of tanks of various weights. The UNTSO observes this situation without doing anything about it.

C. The Khourl farm.

In spite of the decision taken by the Security Council on 18 May 1951, which called for the return of the owners of this farm to it, nothing has been done to implement this resolution.

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The farm is being exploited by the inhabitants of the adjacent Israeli settlements

D. The case of the Bakkarah and Gannamah.

The Security Council took a decision, also on 18 May 1951, calling on Israel to return these peoples to their lands. Some of them were returned, but when the tripartite aggression took place Israel exiled even those who were allowed to return to the Syrian region where they continue to live until now. Their land is being exploited by Israel with the full knowledge of the UNTSO.

E. The Arabs of Shamalnah.

In 1955 Israel expelled these people from their village and is now exploiting their lands and refuses to allow them to return to them.

Secondly, in the Southern sector of the Demilitarized Zones:

A. Tal El Kasr.

Israel established the settlement of Tal El Kasr on partially Arab owned land which was alienated by force.

B. Tawafik.

The lands of the Tawafik village have been exploited forcefully by Israel.

C. The establishment of the settlement of Ohn.

Israel established the settlement of Ohn on the ruins of the Arab village of Samra after expelling its inhabitants and destroying their homes.

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D. The Arab village of Nakhib.

In 1948 Israel's forces destroyed this village. Subsequently many projects were thought of to rebuild it and give it back to its inhabitants. Due to Israel's insidious obstructions, however, nothing has been done to carry out any project for rebuilding this village so far.

Recently the Syrian command has once again raised the question of the return of these alienated Arab lands to their legitimate owners with the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission. After contacts with the Chief of Staff and the Israeli authorities and after great efforts were displayed, permission was granted to the Arabs in the Shamalnah area and that of Tawafik to exploit part of their land. The Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission met in this connection with the great resistance of the Israeli authorities who attempted to dissuade him from insisting on the return of Arab lands to their owners. The Chairman felt that Israel has an overall plan to lay its hands on all Arab lands in the Demilitarized Zone.

In so far as the Arab lands in the Middle sector of the Demilitarized Zone are concerned, Israel has refused even to discuss this subject with the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission claiming that the solution of this question falls under their responsibility and that of the Secretary General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold.

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The Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission feels, and he has often proclaimed that openly, that the Israeli authorities have violated the Armistice Agreement in occupying these Arab lands. He is, however, unable to take any positive action in this regard, because he has no executive power to do so. The solution of these still pending problems falls within the competence of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, who could, if he wishes, find a final solution to them.

In view of the foregoing we have the following requests to make:

1. The Armistice Agreement should be revived and its letter and spirit should be henceforth strictly abided by.
  2. A complete settlement of the pending problems should be undertaken through the Mixed Armistice Commission as was envisaged by the Armistice Agreement.
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