

Trips: Trips - 11

HS L 179:70



Dag Hammarskjöld's samt.

D. H. trips 1956 April 14

Message from Foreign Min. of Israel Sharett - to Sec. Gen.
transmitted by Mr Tekoah.

56
ACOS

Cairo

65

Draft
to keep

The following message from Mr. Sharett to the Secretary-General was transmitted by Mr. Tekoah at 10:⁵⁵~~30~~ local time:

"In the absence of the Prime Minister from Jerusalem I am replying to your message of yesterday's date transmitted ~~to~~ ^{by} Chef de Bataillon Giacomaggi. The position ^{is} that all units of the defence army of Israel have always had standing orders not to fire across the Demarcation Line unless attacked. General Burns had been repeatedly informed of the existence of these orders, which ~~had~~ ^{have} been reaffirmed after the Prime Minister's message to you of 9 April. It is ~~the~~ Egypt, which, over the last few months, consistently refused to issue such orders to its troops and we are glad to note that, according to your statement to us, you have at last succeeded in prevailing upon the Egyptian Government to issue corresponding orders on their part.

As for the Prime Minister's promise to keep patrols temporarily at some distance from the Demarcation Line, General Burns was already informed that orders to this effect became operative on 7 April. While these orders are still in force, we must preserve the right to place the patrols wherever it may appear to be necessary within our territory for the protection of the border zone and its ~~its~~ inhabitants, in accordance with the provisions of the Armistice Agreement. We propose to discuss with you this subject in detail when you come to Jerusalem.

With regard to other aspects of the issues raised by you, including the question of formalizing such arrangements as may be ~~are~~ agreed upon, I repeat the Prime Minister's suggestion ^{that they} may be discussed when we have the pleasure of seeing you in Jerusalem.

I am disconcerted to find in your message a reference to "occurrences of accidental origin" which may yet arise, and I should like to feel sure that you have impressed upon the Egyptian authorities the utter gravity of the situation which will be created as a result of any further hostile acts th and in particular of the ^{on their part} repetition of the outrages which ^{were perpetrated by Egyptian gangs} occurred in the last few days.