



Eleventh session
Agenda item 66

QUESTION CONSIDERED BY THE FIRST EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM 1 TO 10 NOVEMBER 1956

Report of the Secretary-General on compliance with the
General Assembly resolutions of 2 and 7 November 1956

ADDENDUM

Note by the Secretary-General: In addition to the communications reproduced in annexes 1 to 5 to his report of 21 November (A/3384), the Secretary-General has received the following letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel.

ANNEX 6

New York, 23 November 1956

I refer to your letter of 21 November on the situation in the Gaza strip.^{1/}

As I informed you on the same day, rioting, instigated by Egyptian agents, took place in Rafah on 10 and 12 November. During the disorders the UNRWA food depot in the town was attacked by an unruly mob and the Israel authorities were compelled to take action to prevent large scale looting and destruction. Order was restored with some difficulty and, regrettably, there were casualties among the mob. Since then, however, complete tranquility prevails in the whole area, and relations between the local population and the authorities are amicable.

^{1/} A/3384, annex 4.

Considerable attention has been paid by the authorities to the maintenance and, where necessary, the restoration of civilian services in Gaza. The supply of water, power and light is functioning normally. Public health services have been re-established and the hospitals, which continue to employ Egyptian physicians, are supplied with all their needs. Religious institutions - places of worship, and social welfare and humanitarian institutions maintained by various denominations, pursue their customary activities. Monsignor Antonio Vergani, the Patriarchal Representative in Israel, who visited the area on 17 November, has expressed his satisfaction with the arrangements made for the Latin (Roman Catholic) community. The distribution of UNRWA and CARE rations to the refugees has been renewed on the same fortnightly basis as obtained before. The first such distribution was completed on 10 November, and the second is to commence on 25 November. Municipal services have been restored as far as possible and, where required, reorganized. The municipal council of Gaza is expected to recommence its operations shortly. The local police force, whose task has been rendered extremely difficult by the release of all criminals from jails by the Egyptian authorities, has been largely retained in its duties.

In view, however, of your desire for direct information, the Government of Israel would welcome the visit of your personal representative who will be given all facilities to investigate and report on the situation in the area.

(Signed) Golda MEIR
Minister for Foreign Affairs
