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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 14 April 1970 from the Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic on 8 April 1970 (A/7969, S/9744), and to my reply of 9 April 1970 (A/7970, S/9745), in which I drew attention to the Egyptian attempt to distort and conceal the military nature of the target at Salahiye of Israel's air action on 8 April 1970.

A further abortive attempt to mislead world opinion in this matter was made by the Egyptian authorities on 12 April.

It took the Egyptian authorities five days to arrange for a visit of representatives of the Press to the target. Though correspondents were taken on 8 April to Houssaneya, approximately fifteen kilometres from the site of the air action, they were refused access to the latter and were permitted to visit it only on 12 April. In the intervening period, the Egyptian authorities had removed from the site whatever traces of military installations could be eliminated.

The attached photographs prove clearly the target's military character and the Egyptian efforts to remove military equipment from it. Photograph 1, taken before the raid, shows fifteen military trucks in special dug-outs and nineteen military trucks, eleven jeeps and four trailers in the courtyard surrounded by

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approximately 100 military positions. Photograph 2 shows the direct hits on the above target. Photograph 3, taken the day following the air action, shows that all but four of the military vehicles had been removed, and that seven military huts around the main structure had been dismantled. The dug-outs and military positions are empty.

An additional air picture taken today, 14 April (photograph 4), shows that the military positions around the compound have been demolished in the meantime and filled in with earth. This is apparently the condition of the site shown to correspondents during their visit on 12 April.

The United Arab Republic authorities have thus resorted to an obvious Potiemkin-village ruse. Its exposure proves again the untrustworthiness of Egyptian propaganda.

It will also be noted that correspondents reporting from the area confirm that the structure, alleged by the Egyptian authorities to have served as a school, constituted part of the military compound. It was located not in a neighbouring village, but, as reported for instance by Jesse Lewis Jr. in the Washington Post of 14 April, only thirty yards from the main structure. In my letter of 9 April, I stressed already the irresponsibility of placing youths in such a distinctly military installation.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

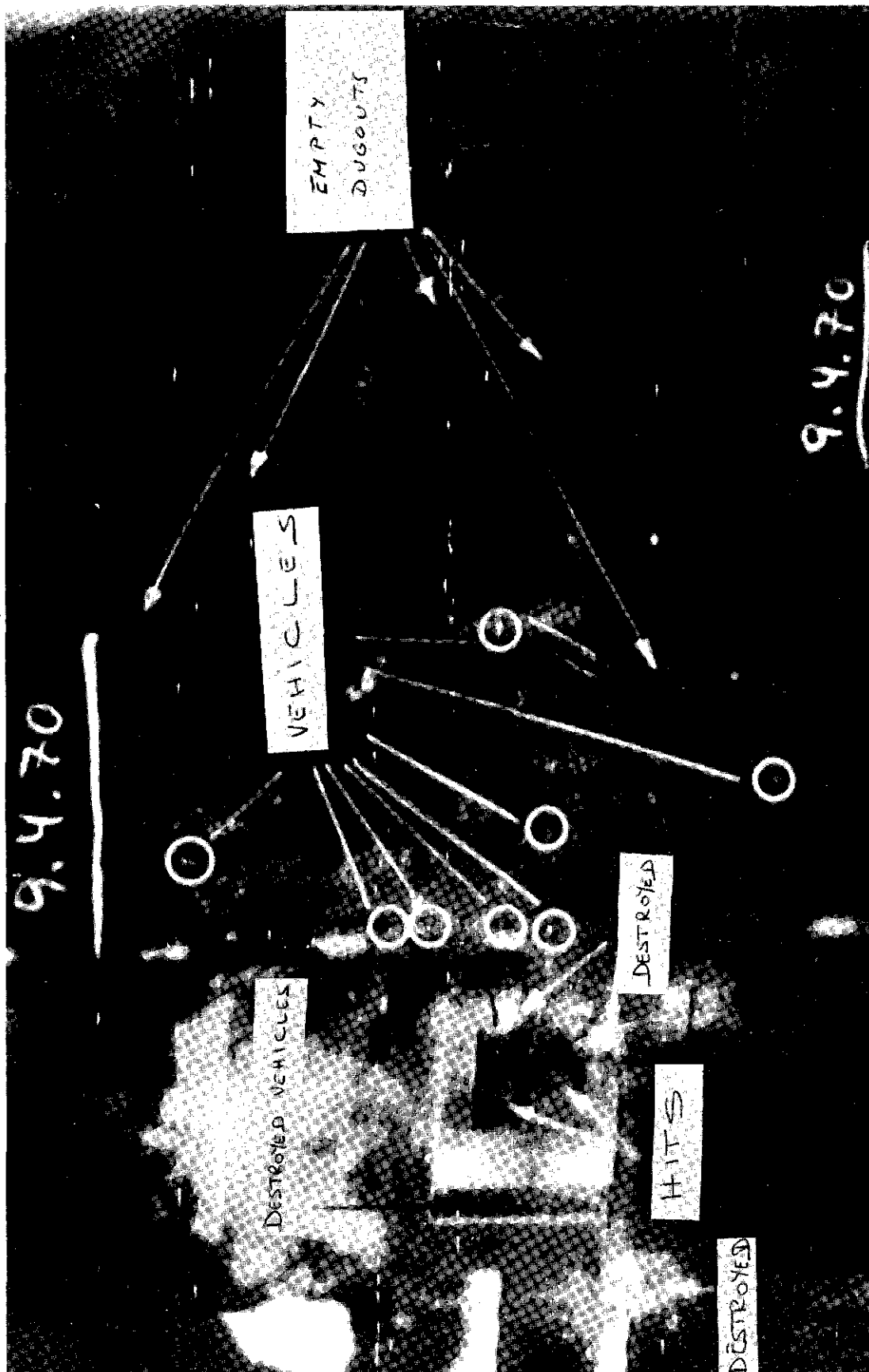
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NUMBER 1





NUMBER 2



14th APRIL 1970

14 DUGOUTS COVERED
BY BULDOZER

CUTS
ADDED

RECENTLY COVERED
BY BULDOZER

DESTROYED

BOMB
CARRIERS

FOXHOLES