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Further report on the status of the cease-fire
in the Middle East

The following report on the situation on 23 December in the Egypt-Israel sector is based on information received from the headquarters of UNEF and UNTSO:

1. Reports on ground activity:

(a) Austrian battalion:

(i) Position 103 (AMR 139-580): 1/ At 0050 2/ machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces ceased (see S/11057/Add.166, para. 1 (a) (iii)). Between 0155 and 0156 small-arms fire by Egyptian forces. At 0905 tank gun and sporadic artillery fire by Israel forces and at 0914 tank gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces (exchange of fire). At 0945 fire ceased by Israel forces. At 1322 sporadic tank gun fire by Israel forces and at 1344 tank gun fire by Egyptian forces (exchange of fire). Fire ceased by Egyptian forces at 1345 and by Israel forces at 1347. Between 1850 and 1855 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.

(ii) Position 104 (AMR 245-414): Between 0153 and 0156 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.

(iii) Position 101 (AMR 136-730): At 0730 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces and at 0744 machine-gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 0753 fire ceased by both parties. At 0852 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces and at 0853 machine-gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 0856 fire ceased by both parties. At 0905 machine-gun fire and at 0955 artillery fire by Egyptian forces, and at 0923 machine-gun fire and at 0945 artillery fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1000 both parties ceased firing. At 1125 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces and at 1127 machine-gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1130 fire ceased by both parties. At 1148 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces and at 1154 sporadic machine-gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire).

1/ AMR - approximate map reference.

2/ All times GMT.

At 1204 both parties ceased firing. At 1212 sporadic artillery and machine-gun fire by Israel forces and at 1223 sporadic artillery and machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces (exchange of fire). At 1236 fire ceased by both parties. Between 1248 and 1255 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces. At 1326 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces and at 1327 artillery fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1330 fire ceased by both parties. At 1340 sporadic artillery fire by Egyptian forces and at 1406 sporadic mortar fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1450 fire ceased by both parties.

(iv) Position 102 (AMR 157-627): At 0905 sporadic artillery fire by Egyptian forces, and at 0920 sporadic artillery and at 0945 anti-tank gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1000 fire ceased by both parties. At 1210 sporadic tank gun fire by Israel forces and at 1240 artillery fire by Egyptian forces (exchange of fire). At 1250 fire ceased by both parties.

(b) Finnish battalion:

(i) Position 229 (AMR 554-175): At 0307 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(ii) Position 228 (AMR 552-173): At 0438 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Israel forces.

(iii) Position 212 (AMR 272-291): Between 0715 and 0730 and between 1128 and 1245 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces.

(iv) Position 231 (AMR 566-174): At 1127 mortar, anti-tank gun and machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces, and at 1128 mortar, anti-tank gun and machine-gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1142 fire ceased by both parties.

(v) Position 230 (AMR 563-173): At 1252 mortar, tank-gun and machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces, and at 1252 tank-gun and machine-gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1313 fire ceased by both parties.

(vi) Position 201 (AMR 504-030): At 1940 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces.

(c) Irish battalion:

(i) Position 502 (AMR 393-046): Between 0645 and 0810 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces. At 0755 mortar fire and at 2045 machine-gun fire, both of which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces. Between 2225 and 2240 sporadic machine-gun fire by Israel forces.

(ii) Position 501 (AMR 443-186): Between 0740 and 0747 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces.

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(d) Swedish battalion:

(i) Position 1102 (AMR 268-813): Between 0658 and 0723 and at 0745 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Israel forces. At 1357 and at 2334 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, and between 1805 and 1820 sporadic small-arms fire by Egyptian forces.

(ii) Position 1107 (AMR 325-787): Between 0815 and 0857 machine-gun fire by Israel forces; between 0850 and 0857 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces (not exchange of fire).

(iii) Position 1104 (AMR 168-795): At 0907 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces and at 0941 artillery fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced artillery fire first). At 0959 fire ceased by both parties.

(iv) Position 1103 (AMR 226-803): Between 1330 and 1355 artillery fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced or ceased firing first). At 1540 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces. At 2238 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(v) Position 1121 (AMR 390-065): Between 2240 and 2241 machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced or ceased firing first).

(vi) Position 1101 (AMR 286-809): Between 2317 and 2340 sporadic small-arms fire by Egyptian forces.

(e) UNISCO Patrols:

(i) Patrol 14 (AMR 7110-8560): Between 0545 and 0556 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces east of patrol location. Between 0900 and 1010 artillery, tank and mortar fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party initiated firing). Between 1207 and 1345 tank fire by Israel forces.

(ii) Patrol 12 (AMR 7455-9005): Between 0817 and 0850 artillery fire by unidentified forces south-east of patrol location.

(iii) Patrol 27 (AMR 7245-8650): Between 1212 and 1220 artillery fire by Egyptian forces.

2. Reports on air activity:

Finnish battalion:

(a) Position 201: At 0740 two unidentified jet aircraft, flying north-west to south-east, were first observed north-west of position and last

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observed south-east of position. At 0750 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying north-west to south-east, was first observed north-west of position and last observed south-east of position.

(b) Headquarters Finnish battalion: At 0815 two unidentified jet aircraft flying south-east to north-west were first observed south-east of Suez City and last observed north-west of Suez City.

(c) Position 212: At 0830 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying east to west, then turning to north, was first observed east of position and last observed north of position. At 0906 two unidentified jet aircraft, flying south-west to north-east, then turning to south-east, were first observed south-west of position and last observed south-east of position. At 0913 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying east to west, then turning to south, was first observed east of position and last observed south of position. At 0913 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying north-east to south-west, then turning to south, was first observed north-east of position and last observed south of position. At 1100 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying north to south over position, was first observed north of position and last observed south of position.

In all cases identification of aircraft type and nationality not possible due to high altitude.

3. Complaints by the parties:

(a) Complaints have been received from Israel alleging that:

On 21 December:

(i) At 0250, 2050 and 2113 Egyptian forces opened fire in the area of kilometre 142.5 of the Suez Canal.

(ii) At 0605 Egyptian forces moved forward north-east of Ataq (AMR 7558-7993).

(iii) At 0720, 0845, 2020 and 2400 Egyptian forces opened fire approximately 12 kilometres south-west of Fayid (AMR 7410-8450).

(iv) At 0740 Egyptian forces moved forward and opened fire north-east of Kantara.

(v) At 0925 Egyptian forces opened fire south of Abu Suweir (AMR 7220-8730).

(vi) At 1025 Egyptian forces fired anti-tank missiles 12 kilometres south of Abu Suweir.

(vii) At 1055 one Egyptian boat left the west bank in the southern part of Little Bitter Lake.

(viii) At 1140 Egyptian forces opened fire south of Ras-El-Adabiya (AMR 7639-7932).

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(ix) At 1145 and 1500 Egyptian forces opened fire south of Adabiya (AMR 7580-8960).

(x) At 1146 Egyptian forces opened fire 6 kilometres north of Kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

(xi) At 1156 Egyptian forces opened fire 4 kilometres south of Kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

(xii) At 1200 Egyptian forces opened mortar fire south of Kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

(xiii) At 1230 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire 6 kilometres south-west of Kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

(xiv) At 1330 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire 15 kilometres south of Abu Suweir.

(xv) At 1330 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire 13, 15 and 18 kilometres respectively north-west of Fayid.

(xvi) At 1405 Egyptian forces opened artillery and anti-tank missile fire 3 kilometres west of Ras-El-Adabiya.

(xvii) At 1405, 1615 and 1705 Egyptian forces opened fire in the area of Kilometre 135 of the Suez Canal.

(xviii) At 1440 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire on the north-western slopes of Gabel Ataga.

(xix) At 1514 Egyptian forces opened mortar fire 6 kilometres west of Ataga.

(xx) At 1715 one Egyptian forces vehicle moved forward 13 kilometres south of Abu Suweir.

(xxi) At 1730 Egyptian forces opened fire 12 kilometres south of Abu Suweir.

(xxii) At 1900 Egyptian forces opened fire east of El-Ballah (AMR 7401-8960).

(xxiii) At 2100 Egyptian forces opened mortar fire east of El-Ballah.

On 22 December:

(xxiv) At 0625 Egyptian forces opened fire at AMR 7500-8880.

(xxv) At 0805 Egyptian forces opened fire on one Israel tractor at 7230-8530.

(xxvi) At 0815 Egyptian forces opened tank and artillery fire south-east of Kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

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(xxvii) At 0927 Egyptian forces opened fire at an Israel position 2 kilometres south of Adabiya.

(xxviii) At 1015 Egyptian forces opened tank fire 14 kilometres south-west of Fayid.

(xix) At 1030 Egyptian forces moved forward at AMR 7300-8370.

(xxx) At 1100 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire on Israel tractors at AMR 7210-8620.

(xxxi) At 1135 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire at AMR 7200-8460.

(xxxi) At 1210 Egyptian forces opened fire in the area of AMR 7210-8620.

(xxxiii) At 1246 and 1412 Egyptian forces opened fire on one Israel navy boat between Adabiya and Ras Misalla (AMR 7710-7910).

(xxxiv) At 1410 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire north of Gebel Ataqa.

(xxxv) At 1715 Egyptian forces opened fire south-east of El-Ballah.

(xxxvi) At 1835 Egyptian forces opened fire 11 kilometres south-west of Fayid.

(xxxvii) At 1929 one Egyptian forces helicopter overflew the area south-west of Suez from west to east.

On 23 December:

(xxxviii) At 518 and 0545 Egyptian forces moved forward in the Ayun Musa (13 kilometres south-east of Suez) area.

(xxxix) At 0610, 0625 and 2130 Egyptian forces opened fire approximately 12 kilometres south-west of Fayid.

(xl) At 0710 Egyptian forces opened fire at AMR 7360-8640.

(xli) At 0735 Egyptian forces opened fire 8 kilometres south of Abu Suweir.

(xlii) At 0805 and 0904 Egyptian forces moved forward approximately 11 kilometres south-west of Fayid.

(xliii) At 0920 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire at AMR 7210-8540.

(xliv) At 1135 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire in the Suez City area.

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(xlv) At 2043 Egyptian forces opened fire at AMR 7280-6070.

Complaint (xxxiv) was confirmed by United Nations observation (see S/11057/Add.166, paragraph 1 (e) (ii)).

Complaint (xliii) was confirmed by United Nations observation (see paragraph 1 (e) (i) although there is a discrepancy in times).

The other complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

(b) Complaints have been received from Egypt alleging that on 23 December:

(i) At 0740 Israel forces opened small-arms fire in area 18 kms south-east of Ismailia.

(ii) Between 0759 and 0830 and between 1130 and 1300 Israel forces opened tank, artillery and machine-gun fire on east bank of Canal in southern sector.

(iii) Between 1200 and 1245 Israel forces opened tank fire in area 8 kms south of Abu Suweir.

(iv) Between 1240 and 1255 Israel forces opened artillery fire in area 15 kms south-west of Ismailia.

The above complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

4. Firing close to United Nations personnel and positions:

Finnish battalion:

(a) Position 231: As a result of firing between 1127 and 1142 United Nations flag and flagpole at United Nations position were damaged by shell fragments (see paragraph 1 (b) (iv)).

(b) Finnish battalion headquarters: During exchange of fire between 1252 and 1313 a United Nations line maintenance patrol mounted on bicycles was required to take shelter while on route from position 228 to position 230. One United Nations bicycle was destroyed and another damaged.