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LETTER DATED 6 MAY 1966 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JORDAN

I have the honour to reply to your letter to me of 5 May 1966 in which you ask for the circulation to the Security Council of the Report on the Implementation of the General Armistice Agreements which had been called for by the Representative of Morocco at the 1063rd meeting of the Security Council on 3 September 1963, and which I had undertaken to have prepared.

May I first summarize what I had to say to you about this report in our talk at noon on 6 May following receipt of your letter. I pointed out then that the completion of the report had taken far longer than had been anticipated by the Chief of Staff of UNTSO and by myself at the time of the request for it. This was due in part to a lack of full appreciation at the time of what would actually be involved in meeting the request of the Representative of Morocco. Moreover, the professional staff available to the Chief of Staff is very limited and first priority on their time has had to be given to current work over an assignment of this kind. I further informed you that a draft report in the form of a summary covering the period from the beginning of the Armistice Agreements in 1949 through July 1964 has been prepared and submitted to me by the Chief of Staff. However, as I explained to you, although this summary report is well done, I consider it undesirable to circulate it for the reason that as a summary it could not cover all complaints and therefore would be open to objections from both sides for the omission of particular cases.

The alternative to a summary report, having in mind the stipulation of the Representative of Morocco that the report "must be based exclusively upon facts and should not be of a political character", would be to prepare a compilation consisting of (a) all the thousands of complaints that have been submitted by all of the parties to the Armistice Agreements over the years; (b) the reports of all of the investigations of complaints by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) Observers, which are voluminous and often

include many photographs, sketches and maps; and (c) all of the decisions of the four Mixed Armistice Commissions, which run into many hundreds. The size and bulk of such a compilation would be huge, totalling many thousands of pages and, to my mind, would be unreadable and could serve no useful purpose. Quite apart from other considerations, the expense of circulating such a compilation as a Security Council document obviously would be great.

In the course of our talk, having in mind the commitment originally made to the Council, I agreed to have prepared for circulation to the Council a report which would be a modified and reduced compilation consisting of the following:

- (1) A concise statement of the essential facts of each complaint that has been made;
- (2) A concise statement of any action that has been taken on the complaints, such as investigations by United Nations Observers;
- (3) A summary of positions taken by the Chairmen of the Mixed Armistice Commissions where such positions have been formally stated; and
- (4) The results or conclusions reached by the MACS when they have taken action.

Each complaint should, to the extent possible, be limited to approximately one page.

To give you some idea of the magnitude of even this limited type of compilation, I may point out that for the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission alone there were, as of 17 July 1964, 679 Israel complaints and 4,469 Jordanian complaints outstanding on the agenda of the Commission. In the circumstances, I am sure that you will readily understand my inability at present to be very precise about a completion deadline for this report. I may only assure you that we will proceed with its preparation to the best of our ability and resources.

Since your letter to which this is a reply has been circulated at your request as a document of the Security Council, I am similarly having this letter circulated.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) U THANT  
Secretary-General

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