

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/3585  
12 April 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1956 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 10 April (S/3583) and to inform you of the latest violations of the Egypt-Israel General Armistice Agreement committed by Egypt in Israel territory.

On 10 April 1956, at 1655 hours, an Israel military command car was mined near Kissufim. Three soldiers were wounded.

This brings the total number of casualties suffered by Israel as a result of the operations of Egyptian murder gangs in Israel territory during the period 7-10 April 1956 to nine persons killed and eighteen wounded. Two of the killed and seven of the wounded were soldiers.

The relative period of quiet which had prevailed since the afternoon of 10 April was broken on 11 April at 1730 hours when two workers were attacked by hand-grenades in an orange-grove between Chatzor and Gan Yavneh.

At 1730 hours, an Israel position spotted a group of 15 Egyptian soldiers who had crossed into Israel territory about 2 kms. west of Erez and opened fire at them. The Egyptian soldiers retreated under cover of strong rifle and sub-machine gun fire from two Egyptian positions. The exchange of fire lasted for about thirty minutes.

At 1900 hours, a crowded civilian bus and a civilian truck were fired on while travelling on the main road between Beit Dagon and Sarafand. Six of the bus passengers were wounded.

At approximately 2030 hours, an Egyptian murder gang entered the Agricultural Boarding School for Boys at Shafrir. They fired on a group of twelve boys who were in the synagogue saying their evening prayers with their teacher. Three of the boys were killed on the spot. Four other boys were wounded, three of them critically.

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This fiendish butchery of young children at the sacred moment of prayer was committed in the heart of Israel territory more than 50 kms. north of the Gaza strip and only 7 kms. away from Tel Aviv.

At 2130 hours, an Israel policeman was shot and wounded near Lod.

At 2135 hours, hand-grenades were thrown into two buildings in Achiezer about 9 kms. south-east of Tel Aviv. A man, his wife and their 18 months old baby were wounded.

On 12 April mines were found near the water installations at Azikam and at Shafrim.

On 12 April at 1215 hours, rifle fire was opened by an Egyptian outpost on an Israel outpost near Erez. The fire was returned and the exchange of fire lasted for twenty minutes.

At 1216 hours, Israel planes intercepted four Egyptian planes flying over Israel territory in the heart of the Negev. Two of the Egyptian planes were piston-engine aircraft and two were Vampire jets. In the ensuing battle one Egyptian Vampire was hit and crashed in flames at Avdat, 10 kms. south of Sdeh Boker and about 30 kms. east of the border. The pilot was wounded and taken prisoner.

The inescapable conclusion from this new series of outrages is that Egypt has dispatched new forces to engage in murder and sabotage inside Israel despite the fact that during the past 24 hours the Secretary-General of the United Nations has been in Cairo, together with Major-General E. L. M. Burns, trying to persuade Egypt to honour her obligations under the Armistice Agreement and to refrain from all acts of hostility. The intensified series of hostilities against Israel which has reached its peak in the last 24 hours, seems to be Egypt's answer to these appeals.

I have the honour to request that the contents of this letter be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) ARTHUR C. LIVERAN

P.P. Permanent Representative of  
Israel to the United Nations

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