

# UNITED NATIONS

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### Supplemental Information

1. In the Supplemental Information of 4 September 1967 (S/7930/Add.32), the Secretary-General communicated to the Security Council two interim reports from Lieutenant-General Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of UNTSO, on the incident involving heavy firing which had occurred on that day in the area of Port Suez-Port Tawfiq. The following is a more complete report from the Chief of Staff on this incident:

"1. On 4 September 1967 at 0825 hours GMT, United Nations Military Observers from OP 1/ Lima (MR7662-8173) were at the western bank of the canal at Port Tawfiq waiting for a United Arab Republic Liaison Officer when they heard the sound of three explosions. They were unable to locate them, but were told by the Liaison Officer that the explosions were practice fire. At 0845 hours GMT, from the southern end of the jetty (MR 2/ 7657-8037), the UNMO's observed two Israel torpedo boats and one Israel landing craft circling approximately three kilometres south of the Port Tawfiq jetty and to the east of the approach channel to the canal. They were told, at this time, by a UAR officer in the vicinity, an unidentified major, that UAR troops would open fire at the Israel vessels if they came too near the 'limit'. He did not specify what the 'limit' was. The observers reported the events to the UN control centre at Ismailia as they occurred.

"2. At 0857 hours GMT, the UNMO's reported that a UAR position had fired one shell and that they observed one splash at about 100 metres in front of the IDF 3/ landing craft which was circling while the two torpedo boats were stationary. The landing craft was then observed to have reversed course after the shot was fired, to have crossed the channel and turned south-east. The vessels were not seen at any time heading towards the channel entrance.

"3. At 0905 hours GMT an Israel tank fired from the eastern side of the canal at Port Tawfiq. Sporadic firing from both sides, including tank, artillery and machine gun fire, continued. Because of the heavy shelling, the observers on the UAR side of the Port Tawfiq area withdrew from the immediate vicinity at 1100 hours GMT.

- 1/ Observation Post.
- 2/ Map Reference.
- 3/ Israel Defence Forces.

"4. At approximately 1130 hours GMT, the Officers-in-charge of the United Nations Control Centres at Ismailia and Kantara proposed a cease-fire to be effective at 1215 hours GMT; the proposal was accepted immediately by the UAR representative and at 1155 hours GMT by the Israel representative.

"5. At 1210 hours GMT, Observers in the area reported that firing was spreading up the canal area to the north as far as the vicinity of OP LIMA. At 1232 hours GMT, firing ceased in the Port Tawfiq area; artillery fire continued in an area approximately two kilometres south of OP LIMA. At 1255 hours GMT artillery and tank firing, which had ceased intermittently, recommenced in the vicinity of OP LIMA. At 1258 hours GMT, UNMO's, observing from the roof of OP Blue building (MR7677-8055) in the Port Tawfiq area on the Israel side, reported that they were placed under direct UAR machine gun fire.

"6. At 1259 hours GMT, all firing ceased in the area. No firing occurred for approximately the next half hour. At 1324 hours GMT, however, an Israel helicopter flying east of OP Blue drew heavy UAR anti-aircraft fire. During the following hour, there was relative quiet with only sporadic firing, mainly in the area south of OP Lima.

"7. Between 1425 hours GMT and 1447 hours GMT, there was heavy machine gun and tank fire from the Israel side in the area south of OP Lima. The fire was not returned. Following approximately one hour of relative quiet, broken at 1452 hours GMT by five minutes of sporadic fire, intensive shelling recommenced at 1517 hours GMT from the Israel side in the Port Tawfiq area; the fire was returned.

"8. At 1547 hours GMT, the Officers-in-charge of the United Nations Control Centres at Ismailia and Kantara proposed a new cease-fire to be effective at 1615 hours GMT; this proposal was accepted by the UAR representative at 1555 hours GMT and by the Israel representative at 1600 hours GMT.

"9. Firing ceased in the Port Suez-Port Tawfiq area at 1605 hours GMT and in the area south of OP Lima at 1612 hours GMT."

2. The Chief of Staff is undertaking discussions with both sides with a view toward preventing a recurrence of firing in that area.

3. The Chief of Staff has advised the Secretary-General that he relates the movement of Israel ships in the Bay of Suez or the Gulf of Suez to the existing Suez Canal arrangements (see S/8053/Add.1 and 2) only insofar as an incident occurring in those waters may start a chain reaction of firing in the Suez Canal sector.

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