

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



GENERAL

S/2312  
27 August 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CABLEGRAM DATED 25 AUGUST 1951 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

IN MY TELEGRAM TO YOUR EXCELLENCY OF 7 MAY 1951 (S/2126), WHICH ON THE BASIS OF THE FACTS SET FORTH THEREIN INDICATED THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT OF FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND OF ARMED AGGRESSION AGAINST ISRAEL BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE DEMILITARISED ZONE, I DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT A BODY OF A SYRIAN SOLDIER IN UNIFORM AND NUMEROUS ARTICLES OF SYRIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED ON THE SCENE OF ACTION. SUBSEQUENTLY THREE MORE SUCH BODIES WERE FOUND AND ALL FOUR WERE HANDED OVER TO SYRIAN AUTHORITIES.

MY GOVERNMENT WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED NOT TO HAVE FOUND THESE TANGIBLE PROOFS OF WARLIKE ACTS COMMITTED BY THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL'S TERRITORY IN ANY WAY REFLECTED IN THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 18 MAY (S/2157). IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY PRONOUNCEMENT BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THIS VITAL POINT OF WHETHER THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WAS OR WAS NOT VIOLATED BY THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE USE OF ITS REGULAR MILITARY FORCES, THE IMPRESSION WAS INEVITABLY CREATED THAT THE DETAILED FACTUAL PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S COMPLAINT CONTAINED IN STATEMENTS MADE BEFORE THE COUNCIL BY OUR REPRESENTATIVE, MR. ABBA EBAN, WAS DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OUT BY STATEMENTS OF THE SYRIAN DELEGATE FLATLY DENYING SYRIAN AGGRESSION AND CASTING DOUBT ON THE DISCOVERY OF PROOFS THEREOF.

NEVERTHELESS THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN PARAGRAPH 9 (b) OF THE ABOVE RESOLUTION STATED THAT "ANY AGGRESSIVE MILITARY ACTIONS BY EITHER OF THE PARTIES IN OR AROUND THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE, WHICH FURTHER INVESTIGATION BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION INTO REPORTS AND COMPLAINTS RECENTLY SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL MAY ESTABLISH; CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE CEASE-FIRE PROVISION PROVIDED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF 15 JULY 1948 AND ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND THE OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED UNDER THE CHARTER". ALTHOUGH THIS PARAGRAPH CLEARLY IMPLIED A DIRECTIVE TO THE CHIEF OF

STAFF TO CARRY OUT FURTHER INVESTIGATION INTO ISRAEL'S COMPLAINT, MY GOVERNMENT WAITED WEEKS IN VAIN TO HEAR OF THE RESULTS OF SUCH AN INVESTIGATION. IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO GENERAL RILEY ON 10 JULY 1951, I THEREFORE TOOK THE LIBERTY OF CALLING HIS ATTENTION TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) OF THE RESOLUTION AND ASKED TO BE INFORMED WHETHER THE FURTHER INVESTIGATION CALLED FOR BY THAT RESOLUTION HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN AND WHEN A REPORT THEREON WOULD BE SUBMITTED. IN HIS REPLY OF 31 JULY 1951, GENERAL RILEY COMMENTED ON THIS POINT IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS: "IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM I HAVE CONSIDERED NOT ONLY THE VIEWPOINTS EXPRESSED BY BOTH PARTIES IN REFERENCE TO THE FIGHTING, BUT ALSO THE WRITTEN REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT AS SUBMITTED BY THE ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IN ADDITION THERETO, FOLLOWING MY RETURN TO THE AREA, I INTERROGATED THE OBSERVERS BUT FROM THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE I WAS UNABLE TO REACH A CONCLUSION WHICH WOULD BE BASED ON MY ABILITY TO PROVE OR DISPROVE THE ALLEGATION THAT MEMBERS OF REGULAR SYRIAN MILITARY FORCES OR OF SYRIAN PARAMILITARY FORCES WERE PRESENT IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE OR PARTICIPATED IN FIGHTING THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE SHAMALNE TELEMUTILLA AREA BETWEEN 2 AND 6 MAY 1951."

I NOW BEG TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THIS CRUCIAL QUESTION OF DIRECT SYRIAN MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN ACTS OF AGGRESSION COMMITTED, WHICH DESPITE INCONTESTABLE PHYSICAL PROOF ADDUCED BY ISRAEL, WAS REGARDED BY UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS AND ON THE BASIS OF THEIR REPORTS BY GENERAL RILEY HIMSELF AS OBSCURE AND INDETERMINABLE, HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY AND CONCLUSIVELY CLARIFIED BY THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ITSELF. NUMBER 31 OF THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE SYRIAN REPUBLIC PUBLISHED IN DAMASCUS ON 19 JULY 1951 CONTAINS TWO ANNOUNCEMENTS OF DECORATIONS AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF THE SYRIAN FORCES WHO PARTICIPATED IN WAR OPERATIONS. ORDER NUMBER 1021 ANNOUNCES THE AWARD OF A MEDAL FOR THE WOUNDED TO A TOTAL OF FIFTY MEMBERS OF THE SYRIAN FORCES, WHOSE NAMES, SERVICE NUMBERS, RANKS AND UNITS ARE ALL SET FORTH IN METICULOUS DETAIL, "ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR HAVING BEEN WOUNDED WHILST ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ZONE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS". THIS LIST CONTAINS THE NAMES OF NINE MEN WOUNDED ON 5 MAY AT TELEMUTILLA, TWENTY-SEVEN WOUNDED ON 6 MAY AT TELABIZEID AND FOURTEEN WOUNDED ON THE SAME DAY AT TELEMUTALLAKA (THE TWO LAST NAMED PLACES ARE HEIGHTS IN CLOSE VICINITY TO TELEMUTILLA, FORMING WITH IT ONE RANGE). OF THE TOTAL IN THIS LIST ONE IS AN OFFICER, TWELVE ARE NCOs AND THIRTY-SEVEN ARE PRIVATES. ORDER NUMBER 1020, PRINTED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE ONE CITING THE NAMES OF WOUNDED TO WHOM MEDALS HAD BEEN AWARDED, ANNOUNCES THE AWARD

OF THE MILITARY MEDAL CLASS A TO ONE OFFICER, TWO NCOs AND SIX PRIVATES POSTHUMOUSLY, THE MILITARY MEDAL CLASS B TO THREE OFFICERS AND TWO NCOs AND THE MILITARY MEDAL CLASS C TO TWO OFFICERS, TEN NCOs AND THREE PRIVATES. THIS ORDER AGAIN CONTAINS A FULL LIST OF NAMES, NUMBERS, RANKS AND UNITS. IT STATES THAT "THE SOLDIERS WHOSE NAMES ARE HEREIN SET FORTH WERE AWARDED MILITARY MEDALS ACCORDING TO CLASS IN APPRECIATION OF THE COURAGE AND BRAVERY WHICH THEY HAD SHOWN IN FULFILMENT OF DUTY IN MILITARY OPERATIONS". ALTHOUGH NO DATES OR NAMES OF PLACES ARE MENTIONED IN ORDER 1020, IT IS CLEAR THAT REFERENCE IS TO THE SAME OPERATIONS IN THE SAME AREA AS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER. A PHOTOSTAT COPY OF THE RELEVANT PAGES OF THE ABOVE ISSUE OF THE SYRIAN OFFICIAL GAZETTE IS BEING AIRMAILED TO THE ISRAEL DELEGATION IN NEW YORK AND WILL BE PRESENTED IN DUE COURSE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY. IT WILL BE OBSERVED THAT A TOTAL OF SEVENTY-NINE MEN WERE DECORATED EITHER AS WOUNDED OR KILLED IN ACTION OR HAVING SHOWN GALLANTRY WHILST ESCAPING UNHURT. FROM THIS FIGURE AS WELL AS FROM THE NAMES OF THE UNITS MENTIONED, THE EXTENT OF SYRIAN FORCES WHO WERE ENGAGED IN AGGRESSIVE OPERATIONS IN AND AROUND TELELMUTILLA IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY 1951 MAY WELL BE GAUGED.

IN VIEW OF THIS EXPRESS, OPEN AND OFFICIAL ADMISSION BY THE PARTY CONCERNED OF ITS AUTHORSHIP OF AN ACT WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE ABOVE-QUOTED PARAGRAPH OF ITS RESOLUTION OF 18 MAY 1951 BRANDED IN ADVANCE AS CONSTITUTING A VIOLATION OF ITS PAST RESOLUTIONS AND BEING INCONSISTENT WITH THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENTS AND THE TERMS OF THE CHARTER, I BEG TO REQUEST THAT AN EXAMINATION OF THE COMPLAINT SUBMITTED BY ISRAEL AGAINST SYRIA ON 7 MAY 1951 BE REOPENED WITH A VIEW TO THE GUILT OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT BEING AUTHORITATIVELY AND CONCLUSIVELY FIXED.

MOSHE SHARETT  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ISRAEL

-----

