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

The following report on the situation on 4 December 1973 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 101 (AMR 136-730): 1/ Between 0000 2/ and 0015 machine-gun fire by Israel forces. Between 0635 and 0637 machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; Egyptian forces fired first). Between 0710 and 0711 machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; Egyptian forces fired first).

(ii) Position 104 (AMR 245-414): Between 0615 and 0715 machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; Egyptian forces fired first).

(iii) Position 105 (AMR 265-379): Between 2205 and 2303 intense machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; Israel forces fired first). At 2257 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Israel forces.

(b) Finnish battalion: During the day sporadic small-arms and machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (not exchange of fire) in the area of Suez city. Between 1805 and 1808 intense machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; Egyptian forces fired first) in the area of Suez city.

(c) Irish battalion: Position 502 (AMR 393-046): Between 0640 and 0650 mortar fire by unidentified forces. Between 0930 and 0939 sporadic small-arms and machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces. Between 1012 and 1127 sporadic small-arms and machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces. Between 1637 and 1700 mortar and artillery fire by unidentified forces.

1/ AMR - approximate map reference.

2/ All times GMT.

(d) Swedish battalion:

(i) Position 1102 (AMR 268-813): At 0130 and at 1022 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces. At 2105 heavy machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces.

(ii) Position 1104 (AMR 168-795): At 0237 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces. Between 2240 and 2242 small-arms fire by unidentified forces.

(iii) Position 1103 (AMR 226-803): At 0315 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(iv) Position 1106 (AMR 273-811): At 0914 and at 0935 light machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(v) Position 1105 (AMR 282-808): Between 1625 and 1627 machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced firing).

(vi) Position 1101 (AMR 286-809): Between 1635 and 1650 machine-gun, mortar and artillery fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced firing). At 1714 mortar fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces. Between 1850 and 1852 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.

(e) UNTSO Patrol 21 (AMR 7520-9110): Between 0540 and 0645 and between 0720 and 0759 machine-gun fire by Israel forces.

(f) Patrol 22 (AMR 7610-8720): Between 0800 and 0815 sporadic small-arms fire by unidentified forces north of patrol location. Between 1513 and 1529 sporadic machine-gun fire by Israel forces.

2. Reports on air activity:

(a) Austrian battalion: Between 0850 and 0852 and between 1110 and 1113 one unidentified jet aircraft flew from east to west, turning south, in the area of Gebel Abaqua (identification not possible owing to high altitude). At 0900, 1100 and 1200 two unidentified jet aircraft flew from north-east to south-east in an area 18 kilometres south of Abu Suweir (identification not possible owing to high altitude).

(b) Finnish battalion: At 0700 two unidentified jet aircraft flew from north to south over former OP Lima (identification not possible owing to high altitude). At 0900 two unidentified jet aircraft flew from east to west over Suez city (identification not possible owing to high altitude). At 0920 one unidentified jet aircraft flew from west to north-east over former OP Lima (identification not possible owing to high altitude). At 1111 two unidentified jet aircraft, one flying from north to south-east and one from west to east over

Suez city were observed (identification not possible due to high altitude). At 1312 two unidentified jet aircraft flew from north to east over Suez city (identification not possible owing to high altitude). At 1315 two Israel forces jet aircraft flew from east to south over Suez city.

(c) Swedish battalion: At 1106 and 1139 two Israel forces jet aircraft flew from west to south in an area south of Ismailia.

(d) UNTSO Patrol 13 (AMR 7464-8685): Between 1105 and 1106 one Israel forces jet aircraft, flying north-east to south-west, turning south, then east, was first observed north-east of patrol location and last observed south-east of patrol location.

### 3. Complaints by the parties:

Complaints have been received from Egypt alleging that on 4 December:

(a) At 0615 two Israel forces armoured personnel carriers advanced to point 217 (12 kilometres south-west of Faydel), west of Canal at the northern part of the Suez road and fired with submachine guns at Egyptian troops.

(b) At 0800 an Israel boat tried to tow a ship at Ataq (Adabiya) harbour.

(c) At 1355 Israel forces fired at one armoured personnel carrier and two jeeps with personnel inside in an area 4 kilometres south of El Ballah.

(d) Between 1615 and 1625 Israel forces opened mortar fire in an area 15 kilometres north-east of Ismailia.

(e) Between 1845 and 1910 Israel forces violated the cease-fire by small-arms fire outside Ismailia.

(f) At 1155 Israel forces personnel, an armoured personnel carrier and vehicles moved forward in the area of AMR 7500-8920, and between 1415 and 1425 Israel forces opened mortar and machine-gun fire in the same area.

(g) At 1500 Israel forces opened fire from their position at AMR 7367-8717 and AMR 7377-8787.

Complaint (a) above was confirmed by Austrian battalion (see paragraph 1 (a) (ii)). Complaint (b) was confirmed by Finnish battalion after investigation. Other complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

### 4. Firing on or close to United Nations personnel and installations:

(a) Between 1805 and 1808 light machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces hitting Finnish battalion headquarters. No casualties were reported. (See paragraph 1 (b))

(b) At 0315 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces over Position 1103. No damage was reported. (See paragraph 1 (d) (iii))