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

The following report on the situation on 6 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 103 (AMR 139-580): 1/ Between 0208 2/ and 0219 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.
- (ii) Position 104 (AMR 245-414): Between 0955 and 1020 machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which force fired first). At 1130 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.
- (iii) Position 105 (AMR 265-379): At 0930 Israel forces moved forward approximately 200 metres of Position 105 and commenced erecting barbed wire fence. Between 1000 and 1020 machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; Egyptian forces fired first). Firing was related to move forward.

(b) Finnish battalion:

- (i) Position approximate MR 7624-8072: Sporadic machine-gun and small-arms fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (not exchange of fire) in area of Suez city throughout the day.
- (ii) Position 230 (AMR 563-173): Between 1927 and 1940 machine-gun and mortar fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; Egyptian forces fired first).

1/ AMR - approximate map reference.

2/ All times GMT.

- (c) Irish battalion:
 - (i) Position 502 (AMR 393-046): Between 1945 and 1950 sporadic machine-gun fire by Israel forces.
 - (ii) Position 501 (AMR 443-186): Between 2134 and 2144 and between 2304 and 2315 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.
- (d) Swedish battalion:
 - (i) Position 1103 (AMR 226-803): At 0035 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces. Between 0045 and 0048 and between 0104 and 0140 sporadic small-arms fire by Egyptian forces. Between 0650 and 0652 small-arms fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which force fired first). At 1916 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces.
 - (ii) Position 1104 (AMR 168-795): Between 0045 and 0048 small-arms fire by Egyptian forces.
 - (iii) Position 1101 (AMR 286-809): At 0107 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately by Egyptian forces.
 - (iv) Position 1102 (AMR 268-813): At 0142 and at 0223 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces. Between 0930 and 0931 machine-gun fire by Israel forces. Between 1831 and 1832 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces. At 2114 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.
- (e) UNTSO Patrol 13 (AMR 7520-8768): Between 0750 and 0751 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces north of patrol location.
- (f) Patrol 22 (AMR 7460-8670): Between 1041 and 1046 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces west of patrol location.
- (g) Patrol 21 (AMR 7480-9060): At 1243 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

2. Reports on air activity:

- (a) Finnish battalion: At 0810 two unidentified jet aircraft flew north, turning east, in the area of kilometre 101 (identification not possible due to high altitude). At 0817 two unidentified jet aircraft flew north to south in the area of Suez city (identification not possible due to high altitude).
- (b) Swedish battalion: At 0810 and at 0931 two unidentified jet aircraft flew north to south in the area of Ismailia (identification not possible due to high altitude). At 1107 two Israel forces jet aircraft flew south to north, turning east in the area of Ismailia.

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(c) Patrol 17 (AMR 7560-7930): Between 0811 and 0814 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying north-east to south-west, turning east, was first observed west of patrol location and last observed south-east of patrol location.

(d) Patrol 11 (AMR 7500-9435): Between 0945 and 0951 one Israel forces jet aircraft and one unidentified jet aircraft, flying north-east to south-west, were first observed north-east of patrol location and last observed south-west of patrol location. Between 1318 and 1321 one unidentified light aircraft, flying north-east to south-west and circling between the lines was first observed south of patrol location.

3. Complaints by the parties:

(a) Complaints have been received from Egypt alleging that on 6 December:

- (i) Between 0813 and 0816 two Israel forces jet aircraft violated Egypt air space from the area of Adabiya to the southern part of Bir Abed to a depth of 20 kilometres.
- (ii) Between 0833 and 0838 Israel forces jet aircraft violated Egypt air space south of El Salma to a depth of 25 kilometres west of the Suez Gulf.
- (iii) Between 0906 and 0913 Israel forces jet aircraft violated Egypt air space north of El Zahasrna to a depth of 20 kilometres.
- (iv) At 0948 four Israel forces jet aircraft violated Egypt air space south of Port Said to a depth of 10 kilometres.
- (v) At 1450 Israel forces dismounted from an armoured personnel carrier and started planting mines in an area 15 kilometres south-south-east of Kantara East and opened small-arms fire against Egyptian troops.

The above complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

(b) Complaints have been received from Israel alleging that on 3 December:

- (i) At 1155 and 1325 Egyptian forces moved forward and opened fire east of Kantara.
- (ii) At 1310 Egyptian forces opened fire 10 kilometres south-west of Fayid (AMR 7410-6450).
- (iii) At 1430 Egyptian forces moved forward south of Adabiya (AMR 7580-7960).
- (iv) At 1525 Egyptian forces moved forward and opened small-arms and artillery fire east of Kantara.

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(v) At 1545 Egyptian forces moved forward in the Ayun Musa area.

(vi) At 1545 and 1555 Egyptian forces moved forward and opened fire in the area of Ayun Musa.

On 5 December:

(vii) At 1140 Egyptian forces moved forward east of the former OP Orange (AMR 7605-8415).

(viii) At 1530 Egyptian forces moved forward and opened fire near Ayun Musa.

(ix) At 1650 Egyptian forces opened fire in the area of the former OP Orange.

(x) At 2135 Egyptian forces opened fire south of Lake Timsah.

Complaint (iv) above was confirmed by Patrol 12 from approximate MR 7478-9058 for that part of complaint concerning machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces between 1415 and 1558, which occurred east of patrol location. The other complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

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

(a) Swedish battalion: Between 0045 and 0048, at 0104 and 0140 small-arms fire by Egyptian forces over illuminated Position 1103 (see paragraph 1 (d), (i)). No damage was reported.

(b) Patrol 21: At 1243 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces close to patrol (paragraph 1 (g) refers). No damage was reported.

(c) Finnish battalion: Between 1927 and 1940 machine-gun and mortar fire by Egyptian forces in the area of Position 230 (paragraph 1 (b), (ii) refers).