

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/11057/Add.148
17 December 1973

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

The following report on the situation on 16 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 0145 2/ and 0150, between 0155 and 0200 and between 0341 and 0352 sporadic machine-gun fire. At 1559 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately. Between 1626 and 1627 and between 1839 and 1841 machine-gun fire. Between 1940 and 1941 small-arms fire. Between 2157 and 2158 machine-gun fire. All the above incidents of firing were by Egyptian forces.
- (ii) Position 104 (AMR 245-414): Between 0442 and 0455 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces. At 1137 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Israel forces. Between 1138 and 1147 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.
- (iii) Position 101 (AMR 136-730): At 1150 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces. At 1205 machine-gun fire by Israel forces and at 1206 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces (exchange of fire). At 1207 both parties ceased firing. At 1250 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces and at 1251 machine-gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1252 both parties ceased firing. Between 1115 and 1125, between 1309 and 1311 and between 1350 and 1352 machine-gun fire, at 1432 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, all by Egyptian forces. At 1433 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Israel forces.

1/ AMR - approximate map reference.

2/ All times GMT.

- (b) Finnish battalion:
- (i) Position 212 (AMR 272-291): At 0645 machine-gun fire by Israel forces and at 0646 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces (exchange of fire). At 0703 both parties ceased firing. Between 1455 and 1456 and between 1505 and 1506 small-arms fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced or ceased firing first). Between 2115 and 2155 small-arms fire by unidentified forces.
 - (ii) Position 201 (AMR 504-030): At 0735 mortar fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces.
 - (iii) Headquarters: At 1550 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Israel forces. Between 1600 and 2359 sporadic small-arms fire by unidentified forces in the area of Suez (not an exchange of fire).
 - (iv) Position 230 (AMR 563-173): At 2000 small-arms fire by Israel forces and at 2001 small-arms fire by Egyptian forces (exchange of fire). Both parties ceased firing at 2002.
- (c) Irish battalion: Position 502 (AMR 393-046): Between 0709 and 1245 sporadic mortar fire by Egyptian forces.
- (d) Swedish battalion:
- (i) Position 1104 (AMR 168-795): At 0010 small-arms and machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces. At 1055 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces and at 1056 machine-gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1110 both parties ceased firing. At 2153 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.
 - (ii) Position 1102 (AMR 268-813): At 0212 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces. Between 0618 and 0625 sporadic machine-gun fire by Israel forces. At 1620 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, between 1822 and 1828 and at 2353 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, all by Egyptian forces.
 - (iii) Position 1101 (AMR 286-809): Between 1320 and 1445 small-arms, machine-gun, recoilless and mortar-fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced or ceased firing first).
 - (iv) Position 1107 (AMR 325-787): Between 1325 and 1420 small-arms, machine-gun and mortar fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced or ceased firing first).

- (v) Position 1108 (AMR 298-809): Between 1325 and 1430 small-arms, machine-gun, recoilless rifle and mortar fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced or ceased firing first).
- (e) UNTSO Patrols:
 - (i) Patrol 13 (AMR 7520-8768): Between 0415 and 0430 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces south of patrol location.
 - (ii) Patrol 16 (AMR 7380-8210): Between 0642 and 0707 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces north-west of patrol location. Between 0703 and 0708 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces south of patrol location (see paragraph 1 (b), (i) above).
 - (iii) Patrol 24 (AMR 7350-8210): Between 0830 and 0850 machine-gun fire by Israel forces.
 - (iv) Patrol 22 (AMR 7630-8670): Between 0836 and 0940 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.
 - (v) Ismailia Control Centre (AMR 7381-8768): Between 1330 and 1430 artillery, mortar and small-arms fire by unidentified forces south-west of control centre (see paragraph 1 (d), (iii), (iv) and (v) above).
 - (vi) Patrol 26 (AMR 7780-8350): Between 1346 and 1425 several explosions west-north-west of patrol location (confirmed by Patrol 25).

2. Reports on air activity:

Finnish battalion: Position 222 (AMR 559-154): At 0815 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying north-east to south-west, was first observed north-east of Suez city and last observed south-west of Suez city (aircraft type and nationality could not be determined owing to high altitude).

3. Complaints by the parties:

(a) Complaints have been received from Egypt alleging that on 16 December:

- (i) Between 0615 and 0720 Israel forces opened small-arms fire in an area 26 kilometres west to north-west of Suez city.
- (ii) At 0840 Israel forces opened fire on Egyptian forces in an area 16 kilometres east to north-east of Ismailia.

The above complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

(b) Complaints have been received from Israel alleging that on 15 December:

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- (i) At 1600 Egyptian forces opened fire north of Suez city.
- (ii) At 1630 Egyptian forces moved forward and opened fire in the Ayun Musa area (13 kilometres south-east of Suez).
- (iii) At 1700 Egyptian forces moved forward 20 kilometres west of Fayid (AMR 7410-8450).
- (iv) At 1705 Egyptian forces opened fire in the area of Gebel Ataqa (west of Suez).
- (v) At 1850 Egyptian forces opened fire 5 kilometres north-west of Fayid.
- (vi) At 1935 Egyptian forces opened fire south-west of Ismailia.
- (vii) At 2000 Egyptian forces opened fire south-east of Abu Suweir (AMR 7220-8730).
- (viii) At 2005 Egyptian forces opened fire south of Adabiya (AMR 7580-7960).

The above complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

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

- (a) Austrian battalion: Position 101: Between 1115 and 1125 two United Nations personnel travelling in one vehicle from Position 101 to Austrian battalion headquarters (Ismailia) came under small-arms fire by Egyptian forces. No casualties or damage were reported (see paragraph 1 (a), (iii) above).
- (b) Swedish battalion:
 - (i) Position 1101: Between 1340 and 1355 small-arms fire by unidentified forces passed within 5 metres over the position. No casualties or damage were reported (see paragraph 1 (d), (iii) above).
 - (ii) Position 1107: Between 1345 and 1354 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces passed within 10 metres of the position (see paragraph 1 (d), (iv) above). No casualties or damage were reported.
- (c) Finnish battalion: Headquarters: At 1550 machine-gun fire by Israel forces passed less than 10 metres over the United Nations installation (Supply Company, Finnish battalion, AMR 550-150). No casualties or damage were reported (see paragraph 1 (b), (iii) above).
