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

The following report on the situation on 19 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/ At 0214 2/ small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, between 0250 and 0256 machine-gun fire, and between 2012 and 2018 sporadic small-arms fire, all by Egyptian forces.

(ii) Position 104 (AMR 245-414): Between 0615 and 0620 sporadic machine-gun fire by unidentified forces. At 1833 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces and at 1844 light anti-aircraft artillery fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1845 both parties ceased firing.

(iii) Position 102 (AMR 157-627): At 1515 tank fire by Israel forces and at 1516 tank fire by Egyptian forces (exchange of fire). At 1518 both parties ceased firing.

(b) Finnish battalion:

(i) Position 232 (AMR 569-172): At 0106 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(ii) Position 229 (AMR 554-175): At 0125 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces. At 0207 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Israel forces.

(iii) Position 212 (AMR 272-291): At 0520 and at 0623 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces. Between 0713 and

1/ AMR - approximate map reference.

2/ All times GMT.

0718 machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced or ceased firing first).

(iv) Position 226 (AMR 550-160): At 0820 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(v) Position 221 (AMR 563-148): At 1020 and at 1120 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(vi) Headquarters: Between 1817 and 1853 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). This firing was reported by Positions 225, 226, 227, 228, 229 and 230.

(c) Irish battalion:

(i) Position 502 (AMR 393-046): At 0030 and between 0335 and 0352 flares fired by Egyptian forces. At 0105 illuminating mortar fire by Israel forces. Between 0730 and 0810 sporadic machine-gun fire by unidentified forces. Between 1540 and 1600 sporadic machine-gun fire by Israel forces. At 1819 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces and at 1820 sporadic machine-gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1902 both parties ceased firing.

(ii) Position 501 (AMR 443-186): At 0120 flares and between 0820 and 0850 small-arms fire by Egyptian forces.

(d) Swedish battalion:

(i) Position 1107 (AMR 325-787): At 0157 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(ii) Position 1101 (AMR 286-809): At 0320 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(iii) Position 1104 (AMR 168-795): Between 0820 and 0830 machine-gun fire by Israel forces. At 1328 machine-gun fire and artillery fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(iv) Position 1105 (AMR 282-808): At 1100 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(v) Position 1109 (AMR 732-872): At 1106 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(vi) Position 1121 (AMR 390-065): Between 1845 and 1848 machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced and ceased firing first).

(vii) Position 1102 (AMR 268-813): At 2105 sporadic machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(e) UNTSO patrols:

(i) Patrol 23 (AMR 7350-8200): Between 0705 and 0720 machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.

(ii) Patrol 16 (AMR 7380-8120): Between 0705 and 0720 mortar, machine-gun and small-arms fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced firing).

(iii) Patrol 11 (AMR 7500-9435): Between 0750 and 0820 machine-gun fire by Israel forces.

(iv) Patrol 12 (AMR 7455-8905): Between 0814 and 0818 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces south-east of patrol location.

(v) Patrol 14 (AMR 7120-8570): Between 1500 and 1521 artillery and tank fire by unidentified forces east-north-east of patrol location.

2. Reports on air activity:

Finnish battalion:

(a) Position 222 (AMR 559-154): At 0840 two unidentified jet aircraft, flying north to south over Suez, were first observed north of Suez and last observed south of Suez.

(b) Position 201 (AMR 504-030): At 1048 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying south to north-east over Adabiya, was first observed south of Adabiya and last observed north-east of Adabiya.

In all cases, identification was not possible owing to high altitude.

3. Complaints by the parties:

(a) Complaints have been received from Egypt alleging that on 19 December:

(i) Between 0708 and 0726 Israel forces opened small-arms, machine-gun and mortar fire in an area 27 kilometres west-north-west of Suez.

(ii) Between 1041 and 1050 Israel aircraft violated Egyptian air space from 50 kilometres south-south-west of Suez to the city of Suez, with a maximum penetration of 4 kilometres.

/...

Complaint (i) was not confirmed by United Nations observation, but it may be related to the incident reported in paragraph 1 (b), (iii). Complaint (ii) was not confirmed by United Nations observation, but it may be related to the incident related in paragraph 2 (b).

(b) Complaints have been received from Israel alleging that on 18 December:

(i) Egyptian forces opened fire 6 kilometres north-west of kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

(ii) At 0245 Egyptian forces opened fire at kilometre 142.5 of the Suez Canal.

(iii) At 0310, 0715 and 0800 Egyptian forces opened fire south-east of El Ballah (AMR 7401-8960).

(iv) At 0315, 0400, 1035 and 1120 Egyptian forces opened fire 12 kilometres south-west of Fayid (AMR 7410-8450).

(v) At 0900 Egyptian forces opened fire with small-arms and anti-tank missiles south of kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

(vi) At 0920 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire south of kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

(vii) At 0945 Egyptian forces moved forward south of kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

(viii) At 1211 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire south-east of Abu Suweir (AMR 7220-8730).

(ix) At 1240 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire south of Ismailia.

(x) At 1335 Egyptian forces opened small-arms, artillery and anti-tank missiles fire south of Abu Suweir.

(xi) At 1350 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire south-east of El Ballah.

(xii) At 1430 Egyptian forces opened mortar fire in the Ataq area (AMR 7558-7993).

(xiii) At 1500 Egyptian forces opened tank fire south of Abu Suweir.

(xiv) At 1535 Egyptian forces opened fire 10 kilometres south-west of Fayid.

(xv) At 1620 Egyptian forces opened fire in the Ataqa area.

(xvi) At 2040 an Egyptian helicopter overflew the Ayun Musa (13 kilometres south-east of Suez).

Complaint (xv) was not confirmed by United Nations observation, but it may be related to the incident reported in paragraph 1 (e), (v) above. The other complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

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

Finnish battalion headquarters: Between 1817 and 1853 several machine-gun bursts by unidentified forces hit United Nations buildings in the Finnish battalion headquarters area. No casualties or damage to United Nations installations were reported (see paragraph 1 (b), (vi) above).
