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

The following report on the situation on 31 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) Finnish battalion:

- (i) Position 226 (AMR 550-160): 1/ At 0930 2/ small-arms fire and at 2135 machine-gun and small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.
- (ii) Position 229 (AMR 554-175): At 1450 sporadic mortar, machine-gun and small-arms fire by Egyptian forces. At 1500 sporadic mortar, machine-gun and small-arms fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1545 both parties ceased firing. At 2140 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.
- (iii) Position 222 (AMR 559-154): At 2134 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.
- (iv) Position 225 (AMR 550-156): At 2134 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.
- (v) Position 201 (AMR 504-030): At 2150 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(b) Irish battalion:

- (i) Position 502 (AMR 393-046): Between 0110 and 0130, between 0215 and 0225, between 1220 and 1221 sporadic machine-gun fire all by Egyptian forces. Between 0635 and 0940 artillery

1/ Ash - approximate map reference.

2/ All times GMT.

fire, between 1915 and 1920, between 2050 and 2055 mortar fire, all by unidentified forces (it was not possible to determine which party fired owing to distance). Between 1200 and 1206 mortar fire by Israel forces.

- (ii) Position 501 (AMR 443-186): Between 0618 and 0627 machine-gun fire by Israel forces. Between 1101 and 1130 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces (it was not possible to determine which party fired owing to distance).

(c) Swedish battalion:

- (i) Position 1107 (AMR 325-787): At 0055 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces (it was not possible to determine which party fired owing to darkness).
- (ii) Position 1101 (AMR 286-809): At 0230 and at 1056 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces (it was not possible to determine which party fired owing to distance). At 1324, at 1907 and at 2150 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.
- (iii) Position 1105 (AMR 282-808): Between 0228 and 0229 machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced or ceased firing first owing to darkness). At 0302, at 0345, at 1937 and at 2008 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, all by Egyptian forces. At 2055 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces (it was not possible to determine which party fired owing to darkness).
- (iv) Position 1106 (AMR 273-811): At 0240 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces (it was not possible to determine which party fired owing to darkness). At 0320 and at 2001 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.
- (v) Position 1102 (AMR 268-813): Between 0324 and 0349 small-arms fire, at 2236 and at 2242 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces (it was not possible to determine which party fired owing to darkness).
- (vi) Position 1120 (AMR 395-097): Between 0700 and 0720 sporadic artillery fire by Israel forces.
- (vii) Position 1123 (AMR 426-195): At 1130 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by unidentified forces (it was not possible to determine which party fired owing to distance).

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(viii) Position 1121 (AMR 390-065): Between 1152 and 1153, between 2110 and 2115 sporadic artillery fire by unidentified forces (it was not possible to determine which party fired owing to distance). At 1224 machine-gun fire, which ceased immediately, by Israel forces.

(ix) Position 1104 (AMR 168-795): At 2209 small-arms fire, which ceased immediately, by Egyptian forces.

(d) UNTSO patrols:

Patrol 15 (AMR 7326-8347): Between 1557 and 1615 machine-gun and small-arms fire by unidentified forces (it was not possible to determine which party fired owing to distance).

2. Reports on air activity:

(a) Finnish battalion:

(a) Position 211 (AMR 586-254): At 0802 two unidentified jet aircraft, flying north-east to south-west, were first observed north-east of position and last observed south-west of position. At 1007 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying north to south, was first observed north of position and last observed south of position.

3. Complaints by the parties:

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

On 30 December:

(i) Between 1500 and 1520 Israel forces opened artillery fire in an area 8 kilometres south-west of Ismailia.

(ii) Between 1530 and 1615 Israel forces opened mortar and small-arms fire in an area 4 kilometres south of Ismailia.

(iii) At 1815 Israel forces opened tank fire 24 kilometres north-east of Ismailia.

(iv) At 1330 Israel forces tried to move forward in an area 4 kilometres west of Adabiya to 6 kilometres north-west of Adabiya.

On 31 December:

(v) At 1100 Israel forces opened fire in an area 5 kilometres south-west of Adabiya.

(vi) Between 1100 and 1107 Israel forces opened fire in an area 35 kilometres east of Ismailia.

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The above complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

(b) Complaints have been received from Israel alleging that on 29 December:

- (i) At 0030, at 1630 and at 2330 Egyptian forces opened fire 10 kilometres south-west of Fayid.
- (ii) At 2330 Egyptian forces opened fire 15 kilometres north of checkpoint Delta (Kilometre 101).
- (iii) At 0300 Egyptian forces opened fire east of Kilometre 149 on the Suez Canal.
- (iv) At 0320 Egyptian forces opened fire 4 kilometres east of checkpoint Delta (Kilometre 101).
- (v) At 0410 Egyptian forces opened fire 8 kilometres north-east of former OP Yellow.
- (vi) At 0630 Egyptian forces opened fire 8 kilometres north-east of former OP Silver.
- (vii) At 0750 Egyptian forces opened fire 6 kilometres north of checkpoint Delta (Kilometre 101).
- (viii) At 0755 Egyptian forces opened fire 9 kilometres east of Kilometre 135 on the Suez Canal.
- (ix) At 0845 Egyptian forces opened fire 2 kilometres north-west of Kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.
- (x) At 0930 Egyptian forces moved forward 14.5 kilometres south-east of former OP Blue.
- (xi) At 0945 Egyptian forces opened fire 11 kilometres east of former OP Pink.
- (xii) At 1055 Egyptian forces opened fire 4 kilometres south-west of Ataq.
- (xiii) At 1240 Egyptian forces opened fire 8 kilometres north-west of former OP Pink.
- (xiv) At 1345 Egyptian forces moved forward 4 kilometres south of Kilometre 101 on the Suez-Cairo road.

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The above complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation. However, complaint (i) may be related to the incidents reported in S/11057/Add.186, paragraph 1 (e) (ii).

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

(a) Finnish battalion headquarters: Between 1520 and 1545 machine-gun and small-arms fire by Egyptian forces passed over and around Supply Company/Finnish Battalion. Some bullets hit Supply Company building. No damage reported.

(b) Swedish battalion:

Position 1106 (AMR 273-811): At 2001 small-arms fire by Egyptian forces less than five metres over position (see paragraph 1 (c) (iv) above).

