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

The following report on the situation on 11 January 1974 in the Egypt-Israel sector is based on information received from the headquarters of UNEF and UNTSO:

1. General assessment of the situation:

There was a considerable decrease in activity on 11 January. Only four exchanges of fire occurred, none of them intense. Two were initiated by Egyptian forces and two by unidentified forces. In addition, there were twenty-nine incidents not involving exchanges, twelve by Egyptian forces, five by Israel forces and twelve by unidentified forces.

Incidents in the area of Irish battalion Position 502 (AMR 393-046) 1/ and Swedish battalion Position 1121 (AMR 390-065) continued to occur but on a decreased scale from the previous day.

Delays were imposed on the convoys to Suez City and the Egyptian Third Army by Israel forces on grounds of firing in the Ismailia area by Egyptian forces (see paragraph 2 (d), (i) below). No trucks were unloaded for Suez City and only ten were unloaded at OP Kilo (AMR 7660-8252).

2. Reports on ground activity (firings):

(a) Austrian battalion:

(i) Position 102 (AMR 157-627): Between 0905 2/ and 0925 sporadic artillery fire by Egyptian forces.

(ii) Position 103 (AMR 139-580): At 0833 artillery fire by Egyptian forces and at 0857 by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 0920 both parties ceased firing.

1/ AMR - approximate map reference. It should be noted that UNTSO has been using the Egyptian Red Grid system, but UNEF, for technical reasons, has had to adopt temporarily the Universal Transverse Mercator system. UNEF will change to the Egyptian Red Grid system as soon as the required maps are available.

2/ All times GMT.

(iii) Position 104 (AMR 732-834): Between 1555 and 1608 and between 1910 and 2005 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.

(b) Finnish battalion:

(i) Position 201 (AMR 504-030): Between 1212 and 1252 sporadic machine-gun fire by unidentified forces. Identification was not possible owing to terrain.

(ii) Position 224 (AMR 553-154): Between 1508 and 1525 sporadic machine-gun fire by unidentified forces. Identification was not possible owing to distance.

(iii) Position 202 (AMR 455-314): Between 1814 and 1854 sporadic small-arms fire by Israel forces.

(c) Irish battalion:

(i) Position 502: Between 0620 and 0700 sporadic mortar and machine-gun fire by unidentified forces. Identification was not possible owing to distance from position. Between 0745 and 0805, between 1010 and 1030 and between 1525 and 1550 mortar fire by Egyptian forces. At 1050 mortar fire by Egyptian forces and immediately afterwards machine-gun fire by Israel forces (exchange of fire). At 1137 both parties ceased firing. Between 2047 and 2052 mortar fire and between 2113 and 2118 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces. Identification was not possible owing to darkness.

(ii) Position 501 (AMR 443-186): Between 0645 and 0700 and between 1218 and 1235 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces. Identification was not possible owing to distance from position. Between 1115 and 1135, between 1522 and 1534, and between 2114 and 2122 mortar fire by unidentified forces. Identification was not possible owing to distance from position. Between 1536 and 1548 mortar fire by Egyptian forces. Between 2000 and 2012 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced or first ceased firing owing to darkness).

(d) Swedish battalion:

(i) Position 1106 (AMR 273-811): Between 0955 and 1055 mortar fire by Egyptian forces. Between 1122 and 1154 sporadic mortar fire and between 1205 and 1210 intense mortar fire by Israel forces. Between 1958 and 2159 sporadic small-arms and machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.

(ii) Position 1122 (AMR 421-097): Between 1125 and 1150 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces. Identification was not possible owing to terrain. Between 1535 and 1540 artillery fire by Israel forces. Between 1545 and 1550 artillery fire by Egyptian forces (not an exchange of fire).

- (iii) Position 1112 (AMR 425-378): Between 1210 and 1225 artillery fire by Egyptian forces.
- (iv) Position 1107 (AMR 325-787): Between 1655 and 1720 machine-gun fire by unidentified forces. Identification was not possible owing to distance from position.
- (e) UNTSO Patrols:
 - (i) Patrol 22 (AMR 7570-0740): Between 1000 and 1330 artillery and tank fire by Israel forces. Local Israel forces commander stated that this was practice shooting.
 - (ii) Ismailia Control Centre (AMR 7380-8770): Between 1220 and 1225 artillery fire by Egyptian forces.
 - (iii) Patrol 12 (AMR 7455-9005): Between 1519 and 1545 intense mortar fire by Egyptian and Israel forces (exchange of fire; it was not possible to determine which party commenced or first ceased firing owing to distance from patrol).

3. Reports on ground activity (movement forward):

Finnish battalion: Position 227 (AMR 549-166): Advanced position is still being occupied by two Egyptian forces soldiers. Negotiations are continuing between Finnish battalion headquarters and Egyptian authorities.

4. Reports on air activity:

(a) Finnish battalion:

- (i) Position 231 (AMR 566-174): At 0904 two unidentified jet aircraft, flying south to north, were first observed south of position and last observed north of position.
- (ii) Position 229 (AMR 554-175): At 0924 two unidentified jet aircraft, flying north to south, were first observed north of position and last observed south of position. Possibly they were the same aircraft returning as reported in the above paragraph.

(b) Swedish battalion:

- (i) Position 1106: At 0745 one Israel forces jet aircraft, flying north to south, was first observed north of position and last observed south of position.
- (ii) Position 1104 (AMR 168-795): At 0748 two unidentified jet aircraft, flying north to south, were first observed north of position and last observed south of position.

(c) UNTSO Patrol 25 (AMR 7810-8330): At 0930 one Israel forces jet aircraft, flying west to east, was first observed west-south-west of patrol location and last observed east of patrol location.

Identification of aircraft types and nationalities of unidentified aircraft was not possible owing to altitude.

5. Complaints by the parties:

- (a) Complaints have been received from Egypt alleging that on 11 January:
 - (i) At 0630 Israel forces opened mortar fire 14 kilometres south-east of Kantara.
 - (ii) Between 0800 and 2115 Israel forces opened sporadic small-arms and machine-gun fire in the sector north of Ismailia.
 - (iii) Between 0815 and 0830 Israel forces opened fire 14 kilometres south of Abu Suweir.
 - (iv) Between 0902 and 0907 Israel forces aircraft overflew the area from east of Ain Sudhna (45 kilometres south-south-west of Suez) to Suez.
 - (v) Between 1000 and 1015 Israel forces opened mortar fire 4 kilometres east of El Ballah Island.
 - (vi) Between 1100 and 1200 Israel forces opened fire 7 kilometres east of El Ballah Island.
 - (vii) Between 1100 and 1730 Israel forces opened small-arms and machine-gun fire in the sector south of the Bitter Lakes.

Complaint (iv) was not confirmed by United Nations observation but may be related to the incident reported in paragraph 4 (a), (i) above. Complaint (vi) was not confirmed by United Nations observation but may be related to the incident reported in paragraph 2 (d), (ii) above.

Complaints (ii) and (vii) were not confirmed by United Nations observation because of insufficient information provided by Egyptian Liaison Office. Complaints (i), (iii) and (v) were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

- (b) Complaints have been received from Israel alleging that on 10 January:
 - (i) At 0817 Egyptian forces opened fire west of Fayid.
 - (ii) At 0855 and 1254 Egyptian forces opened heavy artillery fire south-west of Adabiya.
 - (iii) At 0925 Egyptian forces opened fire east of the Small Bitter Lake.

- (iv) At 1003 Egyptian forces opened heavy artillery fire on an Israel forces navy boat near Adabiya.
- (v) At 1055 Egyptian forces moved forward in Suez City.
- (vi) At 1102 and 1310 Egyptian forces opened heavy artillery fire east of kilometre 62 of the Suez Canal.
- (vii) At 1300 Egyptian forces moved forward south-west of Suez City.
- (viii) At 1320, 1655 and 1700 Egyptian forces opened heavy machine-gun fire south-west of Fayid.
- (ix) At 1420 Egyptian forces opened fire in Suez City.
- (x) At 1520 Egyptian forces opened artillery, tank and anti-tank fire in the area of Suez City.
- (xi) At 1610 Egyptian forces opened mortar fire at kilometre 150 of the Suez Canal.
- (xii) At 1620 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire at kilometre 157 of the Suez Canal.
- (xiii) At 1632 Egyptian forces moved forward south-west of Fayid.
- (xiv) At 1710 Egyptian forces opened artillery fire in the Suez City area.

The first instance of firing in Complaint (ii) was confirmed by United Nations observation although there is a discrepancy in time (see S/11057/Add.219, para. 2 (a)). Complaint (v) was confirmed by United Nations observation (see S/11057/Add.215, para. 3). The second instance of firing in Complaint (viii) was confirmed by United Nations observation (see S/11057/Add.222, para. 2 (e), (v)). Complaint (x) was not confirmed by United Nations observation but may be related to the incident reported in S/11057/Add.219, paragraph 2 (b). Complaint (xiv) was not confirmed by United Nations observation but may be related to the incident reported in S/11057/Add.222, paragraph 2 (b), (ii). The other complaints were not confirmed by United Nations observation.

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

(a) Austrian battalion headquarters: Between 1205 and 1215 approximately 20 rounds of artillery or mortar shells impacted near three Austrian battalion vehicles on road (AMR 4268-3823). See paragraph 2 (d), (i) above. No casualties or damage were reported.

(b) Swedish battalion: Position 1121: At 1057 several rounds of small-arms fire by unidentified forces impacted in area of position. No casualties or damage were reported.

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7. Other matters:

Irish battalion: Position 502: At 0930 an Irish battalion officer was not permitted to cross Israel forward defended localities at AMR 4428-4075 for a meeting with a Swedish battalion officer in Position 1120 (AMR 395-097).

