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

The following report on the situation on 25 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:

The situation in the area of operations remained generally quiet. There were five firing incidents, none involving exchanges, three by Israel forces, one by Egyptian forces and one by unidentified forces. Twelve overflights were observed in the Finnish battalion area, 11 by unidentified aircraft and one by Israel forces aircraft.

Supply convoys proceeded without incident. Two trucks were unloaded for Suez City and 11 trucks for the Egyptian Third Army.

2. Reports on ground activity (firings):

(a) Austrian battalion:

Position 102 (AMR 7227-8540): 1/ Between 0713 2/ and 0728 sporadic machine-gun fire by Israel forces.

(b) Finnish battalion:

Position 202 (AMR 7630-8070): Between 1000 and 1130 sporadic machine-gun fire by forces which could not be identified owing to distance.

(c) Swedish battalion:

Position 1107 (AMR 7389-8705): Between 1641 and 1900 sporadic machine-gun fire by Egyptian forces.

(d) UNTSO patrols:

(i) Patrol 14 (AMR 7225-8540): Between 0903 and 1030 sporadic machine-gun fire by Israel forces.

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1/ AMR - approximate map reference (Egyptian Red Grid).

2/ All times GMT.

- (ii) Patrol 21 (AMR 7530-9130): Between 1450 and 1545 sporadic machine-gun fire by Israel forces.

3. Reports on air activity:

(a) Finnish battalion:

- (i) Position 213 (AMR 7618-8103): At 0629 one aircraft, at 0631 two aircraft, at 0633 two aircraft, at 0641 two aircraft, and at 0643 two aircraft, all flying north to south, were first observed north of position and last observed south of position.

All those aircraft could not be identified because of high altitude.

- (ii) Position 211 (AMR 7664-8175): At 0630 one Israel forces light fixed-wing aircraft, flying north to south at low altitude, was first observed north of position and last observed south of position.
- (iii) Headquarters (AMR 7624-8072): At 0812 one unidentified Phantom jet aircraft, flying north to south, was first observed north of headquarters, and last observed south of headquarters. Nationality of aircraft could not be determined owing to high altitude. At 0935 two Skyhawk jet aircraft, at 0938 four Phantom jet aircraft, at 0945 two Skyhawks and four Phantoms, at 0950 four Skyhawks, and at 0954 two Phantoms, all flying north to south at low altitude, were first observed north of headquarters and last observed south of headquarters. In all cases, national markings on aircraft could not be determined owing to high speed, low altitude, and presence of high buildings in the area.

4. Complaints by the parties:

A complaint has been received from Egypt alleging that between 0911 and 0938 one Israel forces jet aircraft overflew the Egyptian airspace from Port Said south to Ras Gharib (175 kilometres south of Suez on Gulf coast), turned west over Sohag, then north to Helwan, and finally east, leaving the Egyptian airspace at El Shallufah.

The above complaint was not confirmed by United Nations observation.

5. Other matters:

Five patrols assisted Israel forces in the search for bodies of soldiers killed during the hostilities (Operation Omega) south and east of Ismailia.

