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

The Chief of Staff of UNTSO has reported that, in addition to the recurrent incursions near border pillars 11, 19 and 33 (S/11057/Add.424, para. 2) the following developments took place in the Israel-Lebanon sector on 23 April 1974.

1. Reports on ground activity:

OP Khiam: 1/ Between 2012 2/ and 2025 artillery fire by Israel forces across the armistice demarcation line (ADL).

2. Reports on air activity:

(a) OP Mar: Between 0644 and 0645 Israel forces jet aircraft, flying south to north, were observed over OP. Between 0700 and 1613 Israel forces jet aircraft, flying south to north, turning east then south, crossed the ADL south of OP and recrossed it east-north-east of OP (28 overflights).

(b) OP Khiam: Between 1029 and 1030 Israel forces jet aircraft, flying west to east then south, crossed the ADL south-south-west of OP and recrossed it south-east of OP. Between 1209 and 1210 Israel forces jet aircraft, flying north to south, were first observed over OP and recrossed the ADL south of OP.

(c) OP Lab: Between 1201 and 1203 Israel forces jet aircraft, flying south to north, were first observed over OP and last observed north of OP. Between 1213 and 1215 two unidentified jet aircraft, flying north to south, crossed the ADL east of OP and were last observed south-east of OP.

3. Complaints by the parties:

Complaints have been received from Lebanon alleging that:

On 22 April:

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1/ The locations of the observation posts are given in document S/11057.

2/ All times GMT.

- (i) Between 1800 and 2150 intermittent artillery fire coming from Israel territory fell in the vicinity of Ej Jibbain (AMR 1724-2806), 3/ Oum Tout (AMR 1742-2795), Aita Ech Chaab (AMR 1815-2780), Quaouzah (AMR 1820-2807), Rmaich (AMR 1847-2760), Et Tairi (AMR 1882-2827), Haddathe (AMR 1868-2855), Yaroun (AMR 1897-2761), Ainata (AMR 1915-2815), Aitaroun (AMR 1944-2802), Houla (AMR 1986-2906), Markaba (AMR 1980-2934), El Majidiye (AMR 2117-2987) and Mimes (AMR 2170-3135). Material damage was reported.

On 23 April:

- (ii) Between 0610 and 0650 four Israel jet aircraft overflew the Lebanese region of El Arkoub in several passes.
- (iii) Two Israel forces mechanized patrols penetrated into Lebanese territory in the region of Chebaa (AMR 2200-3055) and after firing several automatic weapons bursts occupied positions at AMR 2207-3043 and at AMR 2191-3044 respectively.

Complaint (i) was confirmed by United Nations observation except for damage in the area within the observation range of OP Mar (see S/11057/Add.425, para. 1). Complaint (ii) was not confirmed. Complaint (iii) was not confirmed; the area of the alleged incident is not within the range of United Nations observation.

4. UNTSO inquiry on a Lebanese complaint:

A complaint was received from Lebanon on 15 April alleging that the Israel authorities had built a road 800 metres in length inside Lebanese territory at Jabal Hermon Mount Hermon Peak (AMR 2300-3130) in violation of the General Armistice Agreement. The Lebanese authorities requested that UNTSO carry out an inquiry on the alleged incursion. The Chief of Staff of UNTSO authorized an inquiry to be conducted by United Nations military observers (see S/11057/Add.413, para. 3, last subpara., and S/11057/Add.415, para. 4).

The inquiry took place on 17 April from 0735 to 1040 and on 23 April from 0730 to 0930. Four military observers, accompanied by two Lebanese Liaison Officers, visited the vicinity of the area where an incursion had allegedly taken place, heard witnesses and saw the relevant evidence.

Witnesses in the village of Chebaa stated that towards the end of October 1973 they saw two bulldozers working almost daily in the general area of AMR 2200-3042 under the protection of two tanks or half-tracks and that the construction ceased before Christmas because of heavy snow. They also stated that in the middle of April 1974 they observed again bulldozers constructing a road on the mountain slope in the vicinity of AMR 2260-3100, often together with two or three tanks and/or armoured personnel carriers positioned near the bulldozers. Witnesses in the village of Ain Aata (AMR 2230-3155) stated that on 13 April, helicopters were

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3/ AMR - approximate map reference.

observed carrying heavy road-construction equipment to the vicinity of Mount Hermon Peak and that the work began that day to build a road in a south-westerly direction. They also stated that five to eight pieces of equipment were seen during the ensuing five days and that there were several tanks and/or half-tracks near the equipment, some of which seemed to be tanks with scraper blades attached thereto. They further stated that during the same period on each day helicopters were seen ferrying loads of supplies to the construction area under what appeared to be protective cover of aircraft flying over the same general area.

The military observers saw a road approximately five kilometres in length part of which runs through Lebanese territory. The road runs south-west from Mount Hermon Peak approximately 50 metres inside Lebanese territory for a distance of 1,800 metres, at which point the road turns to the south and is lost to view. The road resumes its course in Lebanese territory at the area of AMR 2277-3119 continuing in a south-westerly direction. It gradually achieves a penetration of approximately 200 metres inside Lebanese territory at the area of AMR 2272-3115 and then follows the contours of the slope back to approximately 50 metres inside Lebanese territory in a south-westerly direction until it reaches the area of AMR 2261-3101, at which point the road forks, one branch continuing south-west approximately 500 metres to the area of AMR 2259-3096 and the second branch running south approximately 500 metres to the area of AMR 2264-3094. Beyond these two points the road is lost to view. At the time of the inquiry on 17 April, portions of the road were observed being used by Israel forces tanks.

The complaint is confirmed in so far as the construction of a road penetrating into Lebanese territory and being used by Israel forces is concerned.

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