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

The following information has been received from the Chief of Staff of UNTSO regarding the situation in the Israel-Syria sector on 25 May 1974:

1. Reports on ground activity:

(a) Patrol 36 (AMR 2500-3150): 1/ Between 0433 2/ and 0834 artillery fire by Israel forces. Between 0953 and 0955 and at 1250 artillery fire and at 1102 rocket fire by Syrian forces.

(b) Patrol 32 (AMR 2350-3067), Patrol 38 (AMR 2395-3040) and Patrol 41 (AMR 2354-3004): Between 0532 and 0820 and between 0838 and 1150 artillery fire, between 0537 and 0744 mortar fire and between 0553 and 0647 rocket fire and between 0544 and 0548 tank fire by Syrian forces. At 0558 tank fire by Israel and Syrian forces (exchange of fire reported by Patrol 38). Firing ceased at 0643 (United Nations military observers were unable to determine which party started or ceased firing first). Between 0627 and 0828 artillery fire and between 0656 and 0711 mortar fire by Israel forces. Between 0810 and 0814, between 0930 and 0934 tank fire and between 0835 and 0928, between 0954 and 1006 and between 1103 and 1109 rocket fire by Syrian forces. Between 0902 and 0920, between 1006 and 1021 and between 1308 and 1333 artillery fire and between 0904 and 0912 tank fire by Israel forces. Between 1256 and 1537, between 1553 and 1708 artillery fire and between 1628 and 1629 rocket fire by Syrian forces. Between 1458 and 1709 artillery fire and between 1726 and 1728 machine-gun fire by Israel forces.

(c) Patrol 34 (AMR 2534-2937), Patrol 35 (AMR 2532-2852) and Patrol 44 (AMR 2519-2911): Between 0532 and 1258 artillery fire and between 0722 and 1238 mortar and rocket fire by Syrian forces. Between 0727 and 1355 artillery fire by Israel forces. Between 0755 and 0806 tank fire and between 1143 and 1211 and between 1240 and 1254 mortar fire by Syrian forces. Between 1105 and 1115 tank fire and between 1135 and 1157 and between 1225 and 1228 mortar fire by Israel forces. Between 1406 and 1450, between 1542 and 1645 artillery fire and between 1530 and 1705 mortar fire by Syrian forces. Between 1500 and 1525, between 1539 and 1700 artillery fire and between 1515 and 1705 mortar fire by Israel forces.

1/ AMR - approximate map reference.

2/ All times GMT.

(d) Patrol 31 (AMR 2449-2982) and Patrol 42 (AMR 2431-2961): Between 0554 and 1135 artillery fire and between 0712 and 0713 rocket fire by Syrian forces. Between 0739 and 0847, between 0958 and 1032 and between 1312 and 1343 artillery fire by Israel forces. Between 1230 and 1657 artillery fire by Syrian forces. Between 1458 and 1713 artillery fire by Israel forces.

(e) Patrol 33 (AMR 2444-2814) and Patrol 43 (AMR 2398-2816): Between 0731 and 0807, between 0850 and 1010 and between 1110 and 1230 artillery fire by Israel forces. Between 0915 and 0927 and between 1043 and 1141 artillery fire by Israel forces.

(f) OP Four (AMR 2327-2596) and OP Uniform (AMR 2366-2621): Between 1319 and 1333 and between 2303 and 2400 artillery fire by Israel forces. Between 2350 and 2400 artillery fire by Syrian forces.

(g) OP Five (AMR 2290-2787): Between 2313 and 2333 artillery fire by Syrian forces.

2. Reports on air activity:

(a) Patrol 32: Between 0740 and 0741 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying south-south-west to north-north-east, turning west, then south, was first observed west of patrol location and last observed north-west of patrol location (United Nations military observers were unable to identify the aircraft owing to high altitude).

(b) Patrol 37: Between 0811 and 0812 one unidentified jet aircraft, flying south to north, turning west, was first observed over patrol location and last observed north-west of patrol location (United Nations military observers were unable to identify aircraft owing to high altitude).

3. Firing on or close to United Nations installations:

Patrol 44: At 1636 one round of Syrian forces artillery impacted within 12 metres of OP. No injuries or damage were reported.

4. Complaints by the parties:

Complaints have been received from Syria alleging that on 23 May:

- (i) At approximately 0950 Israel forces opened artillery fire on the village of Beitima (AMR 2429-3083). As a result three houses were destroyed. An inquiry was requested.
- (ii) At approximately 1105 Israel forces opened artillery fire on the village of Bqaassem (AMR 2377-3123). Twenty houses were destroyed. An inquiry was requested.

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- (iii) At approximately 1105 Israel forces opened artillery fire on the village of Deir El Aadass (AMR 2550-2854). As a result six houses were destroyed. An inquiry was requested.

The Chief of Staff of UNTSO authorized inquiries be conducted into complaints (i), (ii) and (iii) above.

5. Summaries of inquiries:

(a) Inquiry at Rime (AMR 2340-3100) and Derbol (AMR 2350-3064):

An inquiry was conducted by United Nations military observers into the Syrian complaint set forth in S/11057/Add.437, paragraph 3 (ix). The inquiry took place on 24 May from 0700 to 0755 in the village of Rime and from 0755 to 1030 in the village of Derbol. The inquiry was delayed from 28 April owing to shelling in the areas. A representative of the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate accompanied the inquiry team.

The United Nations military observers conducting the inquiry interviewed witnesses and examined the evidence presented to them. It is noted, however, that the availability of evidence may have been affected by the passage of time.

Witnesses in the village of Rime stated that on 27 April an explosion had occurred approximately 1,000 metres south-west of the village. Witnesses in the village of Derbol stated that on 27 April an explosion occurred north-west of the village resulting in injuries to one male villager. The alleged injured man was not made available for interview.

The military observers saw no evidence of shelling in the village of Rime. The military observers saw four small craters approximately 300 metres north-west of the village of Derbol near a road.

Based on the results of the above inquiry, and subject to the observation noted above, the complaint could not be confirmed.

(b) Inquiry at Beitima (AMR 2430-3080):

An inquiry was conducted by United Nations military observers into the Syrian complaint set forth in S/11057/Add.476, paragraph 3 (b) (ii). The inquiry took place on 24 May from 0650 to 0745 in the village of Beitima. The inquiry was delayed from 17 May owing to shelling in the area. A representative of the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate accompanied the inquiry team.

The United Nations military observers conducting the inquiry interviewed witnesses and examined the evidence presented to them.

Witnesses in the area stated that on 16 May a shell impacted in the village resulting in the death of one male villager and injuries to one female villager. The military observers saw one house which had been destroyed by an artillery or mortar shell. The date of shelling could not be established.

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Based on the results of the above inquiry, the complaint is confirmed only in so far as the shelling of the village of Beitima is concerned.

(c) Inquiry at Bqaassem (AMR 2320-3120):

An inquiry was conducted by United Nations military observers into the Syrian complaints set forth in S/11057/Add.476, paragraph 3 (b) (i), S/11057/Add.480, paragraph 3 (b) (x) and S/11057/Add.488, paragraph 2 (b) (i). The inquiry took place on 24 May from 0800 to 1000 in the village of Bqaassem. The inquiry was delayed due to shelling in the area. A representative of the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate accompanied the inquiry team.

The United Nations military observers conducting the inquiry interviewed witnesses and examined the evidence presented to them.

Witnesses in the area stated that the village had been shelled on 16 May, on 18 May and on 21 May resulting in two villagers killed, ten villagers injured, two houses destroyed, ten houses damaged and several animals killed. The alleged wounded were not made available for interview. The military observers saw a number of craters and fragments from heavy artillery in the village. Twelve houses had been destroyed by artillery shelling.

Based on the above inquiry, the complaints are confirmed in so far as the shelling of the village and the destruction of 12 houses in Bqaassem are concerned.
