

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/11020  
11 October 1973

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. It will be recalled that the Foreign Minister of Egypt, in the course of his statement made at the 1743rd meeting of the Security Council on 8 October 1973, addressed questions to the Secretary-General, through the President of the Security Council (S/PV.1743, p. 22).

2. In reply to the questions raised by the Foreign Minister of Egypt I received a letter from the Secretary-General dated 9 October 1973, the text of which I communicated by letter to the Foreign Minister of Egypt on 10 October 1973. The Secretary-General's letter reads as follows:

"In the debate in the Security Council on 8 October 1973, the Foreign Minister of Egypt asked the Secretary-General through the President of the Security Council whether United Nations Military Observers were at El Sukhna and El Zaafarana. The full text of the Foreign Minister's remarks is contained in the last paragraph of page 22 of S/PV.1743.

"In reply to the question of the Foreign Minister of Egypt, I wish to inform you that the nearest United Nations Observation Post is some 30 miles from El Sukhna and some 60 miles from El Zaafarana. The United Nations Military Observers would therefore be unable to confirm or deny any incidents in these two localities.

"I have enquired of the Chief of Staff of UNTSO if he has any relevant information concerning this question and he has replied that the Officer-in-Charge of the Ismailia Control Centre reported that on 6 October at 1210 hours GMT he was informed personally by the Senior Egyptian Liaison Officer as follows:

"'At 1100 GMT Israel forces suddenly started attacking our forces in area Zaafarana and El Sukhna in Suez Gulf by formations of air forces accompanied by a number of naval boats in the direction of the western shore of Suez Gulf. Our forces are repelling the enemy attacks and conducting battle in the area to destroy him.'

"Apart from this statement by the Senior Egyptian Liaison Officer, no other information has been received."