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LETTER DATED 6 APRIL 1956 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to inform you of a series of grave Egyptian attacks during the past few days, which have led to the death of four Israelis and to the wounding of seven.

On 2 April 1956, at 1730 hours, an Israel unit in Israel territory in the Nirim area was attacked from an Egyptian ambush. One Israeli was killed and one wounded. Investigation revealed that the body of the victim was at a distance of 300 metres from the border within Israel territory and that he was killed by shots at very close range. Footprints of the attackers pointed towards the Armistice line. An emergency meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission was requested.

On 3 April 1956, an Egyptian position opened rifle fire on an Israel observation post some 3 kms. north of Kissufim. The fire was not returned.

On 4 April 1956, at 1330 hours, an Israel foot patrol was attacked in the Kissufim area from Egyptian positions with sub-machine gun and mortar fire. Two Israel soldiers were killed outright and one died later of wounds received. In order to extricate the patrol, it was necessary to open artillery fire on the Egyptian position. An emergency meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission was requested.

On 4 April 1956, at 0800 hours, an Israel patrol discovered two road mines 5 kms. north of Nir Itzhak. At 1700 hours, while dismantling the mines, Israel soldiers were attacked with sub-machine gun fire from Egyptian positions.

On the same day an Egyptian position opened sub-machine gun fire on an Israel foot patrol 3 kms. south-west of Nirim.

The same day an Egyptian position opened sub-machine gun fire on an Israel patrol some 3 kms. north of Kissufim.

On 5 April 1956, at 0800 hours, an Egyptian position opened rifle and sub-machine gun fire on an Israel foot patrol some 2 kms. north of Kissufim. The fire was returned and the exchange of fire ceased at 0920 hours, at the time of the arrival of United Nations observers on the scene. Egyptian fire was renewed in the presence of the United Nations observer team at 0925 hours, and continued for another five minutes. The fire was returned.

At 1130 hours, an Egyptian position opened fire on an Israel patrol in the area between Erez and Mefalsim. The patrol returned the fire.

At 1215 hours, an Egyptian position opened sub-machine gun fire on an Israel patrol which was moving some 3 kms. north of Kissufim. An exchange of fire took place which continued until 1335 hours, when artillery fire was directed towards the Egyptian position.

At 1500 hours, Egyptian forces commenced shelling the settlements of Kissufim and Eyn Hashlosa with 120 mm. mortars. Mortar shells were fired in return on an Egyptian position.

At 1530 hours, an Egyptian position, south of Nirim, from which fire was being directed on Israel settlements, was shelled.

At 1600 hours, Egyptian forces commenced shelling the settlements of Nahal Oz with 81 mm. mortars.

At 1620 hours, Egyptian forces renewed the shelling of Kissufim and Eyn Hashlosa.

At 1630 hours, Egyptian positions in the vicinity of Gaza were shelled in order to silence their fire.

At 1710 hours, the Egyptians shelled an Israel observation post with 120 mm. mortars in the Gaza strip area.

At 1740 hours, the shelling of Nahal Oz continued and the shelling of an Egyptian position in the vicinity of Gaza was renewed.

At 1815 hours, Egyptian forces opened sub-machine gun and mortar fire on an Israel observation post north of Kissufim.

Four Israel soldiers and two civilians were wounded during these attacks.

I have been instructed by my Government to draw attention to the fact that the responsibility for the lives lost and for the casualties suffered rests with the Government of Egypt. Egyptian fortified positions along the Gaza border

have persistently opened fire without the slightest provocation on Israel foot patrols moving along their customary beat inside Israel territory and on Israel stationary observation posts, and have shelled Israel settlements. These incidents are the inevitable outcome of the failure by the Government of Egypt to issue cease-fire orders to its troops, despite repeated admonitions to this effect from United Nations authorities.

I have the honour to request that the contents of this letter be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

