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REPORT BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION
ORGANIZATION DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 1956 CONCERNING INCIDENTS ON THE
JORDAN-ISRAEL ARMISTICE DEMARCATION LINE

Note by the Secretary-General: The Secretary-General refers to his letter to the President of the Security Council 26 September 1956 (S/3653) and has the honour to submit herewith a report by the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, dated 26 September 1956, concerning the incidents that have taken place in the period between 29 July 1956 and 25 September 1956 on the Jordan-Israel Armistice Demarcation Line. In this connexion the Secretary-General wishes to draw attention again to the report of the Chief of Staff published as Annex II of document S/3632 of 3 August 1956 concerning the incidents on the Jordan-Israel Armistice Demarcation Line from 26 April to 28 July 1956, or from the time of the reaffirmation of a general cease-fire up to the period covered by the present report. One of the incidents mentioned in the present report has been treated also in a previous report from the Chief of Staff (S/3638).

I have the honour to submit the following report on incidents involving Israel and Jordan during the period 29 July to 25 September 1956 inclusive.

The statistics of incidents complained of by Jordan and Israel during this period follow (based on information available at the time of the preparation of this report):

Israel lodged 59 complaints:

- 1 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line by a military unit.
- 4 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line by military units and firing inside Israel.
- 1 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line by armed civilians.
- 9 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line by armed civilians and firing inside Israel.
- 3 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line by unarmed civilians.

11 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line and theft or attempted theft.

1 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line and destruction.

15 Alleging firing across the Demarcation Line.

11 Alleging overflights.

3 Alleging miscellaneous violations.

During this period 19 Israelis were killed and 28 wounded. Thirteen out of 59 Israeli complaints have been investigated, as requested by Israel.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan lodged 210 complaints for the same period:

6 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line by military units.

8 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line by military units and firing inside Jordan.

1 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line by armed civilians.

1 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line by armed civilians and firing inside Jordan.

2 Alleging crossing of the Demarcation Line by unarmed civilians.

29 Alleging firing across the Demarcation Line.

147 Alleging overflights.

16 Alleging miscellaneous violations.

During this period 72 Jordanians were killed and 24 wounded. Twenty-one out of 210 complaints have been investigated, as requested by Jordan.

2. The following major incidents were considered at Emergency Meetings of the Jordan-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission:

On 1 August a group of armed persons from Israel, having crossed the Demarcation Line, encountered a Jordanian patrol in the Wadi el Malih area at approximately 2200 hours, Jordan local time, and an exchange of fire followed. Also on 2 August at about 0230 hours, Jordan time, an armed group from Israel encountered in this general area another Jordanian patrol and opened submachine gun fire, killing 2 National Guardsmen. (Israel was held responsible at the 6 August Mixed Armistice Commission Emergency Meeting.)

On 16 August in the hours of the morning a force of approximately 15 armed men from Jordan crossed the Demarcation Line in the Arava area, set up ambushes at the side of the main road and opened fire at the passenger bus to Eilath and at two jeeps escorting it. This attack resulted in the killing of one woman passenger and three soldiers in the escort. Seven Israelis were wounded. The

ambushers recrossed the Demarcation Line. (Jordan was held responsible in the 20 August Mixed Armistice Commission Emergency Meeting.)*

On 19 August at approximately 0820 hours and approximately 1500 hours Jordan local time, Israeli armoured fighting vehicles were seen operating in the Dawiyima area. The presence of armoured fighting vehicles within 10 kilometres of the Demarcation Line is prohibited under article VII, paragraph 1; Annex II, paragraph I, 2(a) of the General Armistice Agreement. (Israel was held responsible in the 22 August Mixed Armistice Commission Emergency Meeting.)

On 21 August at approximately 1145 hours Jordan time, an Israeli patrol crossed the Demarcation Line in the Khumm Ar Rihan area. An exchange of fire developed with a Jordanian patrol, as a result of which three Jordanian National Guardsmen were wounded and one Israeli soldier killed. (Israel was held responsible in the 29 August Mixed Armistice Commission Emergency Meeting.)

On the morning of 10 September an Israeli unit carrying out map-reading exercises on the Demarcation Line in the Idna - Dawiyima area was fired at by Jordan National Guards. In the ensuing clash six Israeli soldiers were killed, three Israeli soldiers wounded. Israeli bodies were dragged across the Demarcation Line into Jordan. (Jordan was held responsible in the 17 September Mixed Armistice Commission Emergency Meeting.)

At about midnight, local time, 11 September, approximately one Israeli battalion crossed the Demarcation Line and blew up the Rahwa police post and an empty school building in the same area, killing 5 Jordan policemen and 10 Jordan soldiers. Part of this force laid an ambush approximately 5 kilometres inside Jordan along the Hebron - Beersheba road and killed 5 Jordanian soldiers, wounding 3 Jordanian soldiers and damaging 3 Jordanian vehicles. (Israel was held responsible at the 19 September Mixed Armistice Commission Emergency Meeting.)

On the evening of 12 September a group of aggressors from Jordan killed three Israeli guards at an oil drilling camp near Ein Ofarim. (Jordan was held responsible at the 24 September Mixed Armistice Commission Emergency Meeting.)

* See also the report from the Chief of Staff, 20 August 1956 (S/3638).

At 2100 hours GMT on 13 September a large Israeli force totally destroyed a police post and school at Gharandal, in Jordan. Nine Jordanian policemen and two Jordanian civilians were killed. Four Jordanian policemen, two Jordanian civilians were wounded. (Israel was held responsible at the 25 September Mixed Armistice Commission Emergency Meeting.)

3. The latest major incidents on 23, 24 and 25 September have contributed considerably to the tension on the Demarcation Line between Israel and Jordan.

4. On 23 September, machinegun fire was opened from a Jordanian position at Mar Ilyas at approximately 100 members of the Israel Archaeological Congress inspecting ruins at Ramat Rahel in the Jerusalem area. Three were killed and seventeen wounded, one of whom was reported to have died later. (The Israel complaint about this incident will be considered by the Mixed Armistice Commission at an Emergency Meeting.)

5. Israel complained that a woman was shot while picking olives near Ora settlement in the Jerusalem area on 24 September. An investigation team saw the body and followed tracks to the Demarcation Line.

Jordan counter-claimed that nine Israeli soldiers, three girls in khaki and one girl in civilian clothes crossed the Demarcation Line in this area into Jordan. The Israelis, it was alleged, were shot at while in Jordan and retired carrying a body. (This incident will be considered by the Mixed Armistice Commission at an Emergency Meeting.)

6. Israel claims that in the afternoon of 24 September at 1300 GMT the driver of a tractor was missing in the Maoz Haiyim area. When a second tractor driver searched for the first driver, he was wounded by fire from Jordan. At 1330 GMT Israelis retrieving the tractor were fired at.

The Jordanians allege that on 24 September at 1430 GMT two Israelis swam across the river Jordan and landed on Jordan territory. A Jordanian patrol opened fire, killed one Israeli and wounded another who disappeared in the river. Later fire was opened from Israel territory.

A preliminary investigation report of both incidents together indicates bloodstains and dragging marks on the west bank of the Jordan river. The body of the first Israeli tractor driver was found on the east bank of the Jordan and the second Israeli tractor driver was seen wounded. (This incident will be considered by the Mixed Armistice Commission at an Emergency Meeting.)

7. During the night of 25/26 September, Israeli forces attacked Sharafi police post near Husan village. The police post was completely demolished. Also a school building in Wadi Fukin village was blown up. Thirty-seven Jordanian soldiers (two of them were not seen by the United Nations Observers) and two Jordanian civilians were killed and eleven Jordanians wounded.

