



LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1955 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the meeting of the Security Council held on Wednesday 6 April 1955.

Since that meeting dispersed the following events have occurred:

1. The Mixed Armistice Commission has substantively upheld the Israeli complaint on the Egyptian attack near Nahal Oz on 3 April. The Commission has found this to be an "unprovoked attack by Egyptian military positions against an Israel routine security patrol" with the result that 2 Israeli soldiers were killed and 12 wounded, and has "expressed concern at these repeated and continuous acts of aggression against Israel by Egypt."

On 6 April I informed the Security Council that Israeli troops, sent to extricate the patrol, were subjected to heavy firing from the Egyptian position and were compelled to bring armoured vehicles into action in order to enable the casualties to be withdrawn. The Mixed Armistice Commission has found that this constituted what the Chairman called "technical violations" of the Armistice Agreement. The Chairman went on to repudiate any implication that "in his opinion the Israelis fired first", and to point out that in relation to such technical violations "special circumstances should be taken into account."

Thus the report which I gave to the Security Council on 6 April has been fully vindicated. It has been established that there was an unprovoked Egyptian attack to which Israel responded.

2. The Mixed Armistice Commission has condemned Egypt for two further violations of the General Armistice Agreement, in addition to the resolutions which I read to the Security Council on 6 April. These new condemnations relate to items 9 and 10 of the list which I submitted in document S/3385.

3. A further Egyptian violation has now occurred with very grave results at Khirbet Maayan in the Nirim area. On 9 April at approximately 1500 hours an Israel command car on routine patrol was blown up by a land mine at this place. One Israel soldier was killed on the spot, and another later died of his wounds. The vehicle was wrecked. At about 1630 hours a second Israel patrol was attacked from an Egyptian position situated about 200 meters distant from the point where the first patrol had been attacked. The Israel patrol in this case returned the fire in self-defence.

My Government has called for an emergency meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission to discuss this incident, which I shall also bring to the notice of the Security Council.

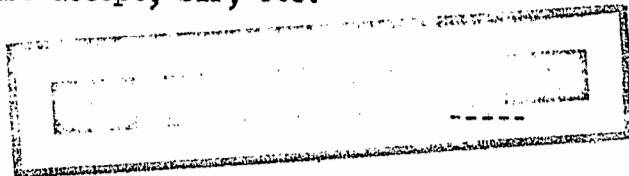
4. Other incidents which have occurred since the Security Council's meeting on 6 April are as follows:

- (i) On 6 April an Israel position north of Kisufim was attacked by a group of 8 Egyptians armed with 2 machine guns who took up a position inside Israel from which they were later forced to withdraw.
- (ii) On 8 April at 1000 hours an Israel observation post in the Kisufim area spotted a group of 6 armed Egyptians on the Israel side of the demarcation line. The post fired warning shots and the group withdrew to Egyptian controlled territory. To cover their withdrawal 81 mm. mortar fire was opened on the Israel observation post from a nearby Egyptian position.
- (iii) On 8 April at 1030 hours a group of 5 Egyptians opened fire on a routine Israel patrol near Nirim.
- (iv) On 9 April shots were fired on Magen village and on civilian traffic in the vicinity from the direction of Zeita in Egyptian controlled territory.

The tension created by Egyptian assaults is mounting, and the Armistice is gravely threatened. Accordingly, I respectfully request that the consideration by the Security Council of the Israeli complaint inscribed on the Agenda of 6 April be resumed with the utmost urgency.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated to the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Sir, etc.



(Signed) Abba Eban

Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations