



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3433
7 September 1955

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 1955 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to the notice of the Security Council the text of a letter dated 4 September 1955, sent by Mr. Arthur Lourie, Acting Director-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Israel to Major General E.L.M. Burns, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, in reply to his request for a cease fire in the Gaza strip area:

"I am directed to make the following reply to your letter of 3 September.

"The serious events of the past few days to which you refer were initiated and sustained by offensive action on the part of Egypt. Only after a long, uninterrupted and progressively more heinous chain of acts of murder and destruction had rendered the situation intolerable did Israel, in sheer self-defence, offer any major reaction.

"The Government of Israel notes that this fundamental and most salient feature of the situation so far has found no reflection in statements and documents issued by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

"As to the request for a cease fire it will be recalled that on Thursday morning, 1 September, I informed you on behalf of the Government of Israel that provided Egypt resorts to no further aggressive action, there will, on the part of the Israel forces, be no opening of fire or any other form of unprovoked violence.

"This line of conduct has been scrupulously maintained by us and I write to reaffirm that it will continue to be maintained.

"In emphasizing that this includes strict orders to take no initiative in opening fire, crossing the demarcation line or attacking persons on the other side of it, the laying of mines with offensive intent or committing other forms of sabotage, I must make it clear that no implication is accepted or presumably intended that Israel - unlike Egypt - has been guilty of the acts enumerated, for example mine laying with offensive intent or sabotage.

"The Government of Israel takes full responsibility for the execution of the above orders. This means in effect that Israel has accepted your request for a cease fire while reserving its full right of self-defence if attacked."

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

Please accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Abba Eban

Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

