

However, as the Iraqi Government has, in its wisdom, seen fit to present a distorted view of the recent incidents, my Government feels duty bound to state the actual facts and set the record straight.

On 10 April 1972 at about 0600 local time three Iranian gendarmes, while travelling from Naft-e-Shah to Ghasr-e-Shirin in Iran, were attacked by several Iraqi infiltrators and abducted to Iraq.

The following day, at about 2230 hours a detachment of Iraqi troops, supported by tanks and artillery, shelled the Iranian border post of Amineh with the apparent intention of occupying it. Encountering firm resistance by Iranian defenders they retreated to their position in Iraq.

On Wednesday, 12 April, Iraqi troops resumed their shelling of the Amineh border post which was followed by attacks on the nearby Iranian border posts at Tazeh-Gol, Raza-Abad and Heydar-Abad with heavy artillery and machine-guns. Their fire was returned and their guns silenced. The same day Iraqi troops, with the intention of infiltrating the Naft-e-Shah road, opened fire on a number of passing gendarmerie vehicles, but were forced to retreat soon afterwards.

Evidence of these Iraqi actions is still manifest on Iranian soil in the form of unexploded shells, artillery casings and grenades.

On the following day, 13 April, Iraqi troops again commenced shelling Iranian border posts, including those of Reza-Abad and Amineh, with heavy field artillery. These incidents caused considerable damage to non-military settlements and one civilian was wounded.

The Iranian Government regrets the fact that the Iraqi Government, in its letter, failed to mention the principal cause of this latest border incident, namely the forcible abduction of three Iranian gendarmes from Iranian territory. In this connexion the Iranian Government has requested the assistance of the Swiss Government—representing Iranian interests in Iraq in the absence of diplomatic relations with Baghdad—in securing the release of the three kidnapped Iranian gendarmes.

In the same letter the Permanent Representative of Iraq refers to the Iranian Government's "repeated violations and aggressions" which have "led to a critical deterioration of the situation in the whole area".

I have to emphasize that it is the Iraqi Government which has continuously been committing various acts of aggression in Iranian border areas, thus violating the principles of international law. In fact, Iraqi provocations and violations of well-established international norms of conduct have far transcended its frontiers. Iraq has become the main source of support and subsidy for subversive elements in many countries in the area; and Baghdad has rightly gained widespread notoriety as a haven and training centre for groups which have been armed to commit murder, robbery and sabotage. A comprehensive list of Iraqi agents involved in subversive activities against Iran is available.

As far as Iran is concerned, Iraqi provocations have not been confined to promoting subversive activities and initiating border incidents. Quite recently a mass expulsion of Iranian nationals, lawfully living for generations in Iraq, roused world-wide concern and was discussed at length at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

Reference has also been made by the Permanent Representative of Iraq to certain differences between Iran and Iraq regarding the Shatt-al-Arab estuary. Our dispute over this boundary river has been the subject of several letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council. Without trying to open anew a discussion on this question, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that lack of progress in this respect is a direct result of Iraq's intransigent policy.

I should also like to stress that the aggrieved and plaintive language of the Iraqi letter to the President of the Security Council contrasts starkly with the bellicose and belligerent tone of Iraq's state radio and press.

Finally I would like to repeat that my Government is prepared to negotiate with Iraq on current issues in accordance with the principles of international law and justice and that, at the same time, it reserves its right to take appropriate steps to safeguard its territorial integrity against any further acts of aggression and provocation.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fereydoun HOVEYDA
Permanent Representative of Iran
to the United Nations

DOCUMENT S/10628*

Letter dated 2 May 1972 from the representative of Israel to the Secretary-General

[Original: English/French]
[2 May 1972]

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 20 April 1972 by the Permanent Representative of Egypt [S/10614] concerning the death of an Egyptian prisoner of war on 18 April and to state the following:

Following the escape, on 16 April, of three Syrian prisoners of war from a prisoner-of-war camp, the camp

* Also circulated as a General Assembly document under the symbol A/8682.

authorities decided to carry out, on 18 April, a search for hidden weapons and tools. The officers among the Egyptian prisoners of war detained in the same camp were informed in advance of the proposed search and offered no objections. The men, however, resisted it, barricaded themselves in part of the camp, and attacked the military police with bars of steel piping, stones, bottles and other objects, wounding two Israeli officers. The prisoners then set fire to their quarters and tried to break out. They refused to obey the military po-

lice and did not heed the warnings addressed to them. It was only then that warning shots were fired in the air. A bullet ricocheted off a wall and wounded one of the prisoners in the head. The prisoner subsequently died.

The Israeli authorities regret the loss of a human life in this incident. However, it must be borne in mind that this was caused by one of the warning shots, fired as a last resort against an outbreak of violence in the camp.

Immediately after the incident, the authorities established a commission of inquiry to investigate its circumstances. The International Committee of the Red Cross was notified of the occurrence.

It is to be noted that the International Committee of the Red Cross is the international organization competent in matters relating to prisoners of war. The representatives of the Red Cross scrutinize the conditions of prisoners of war in Israel and visit them regularly every fortnight. The Red Cross reports, communicated to both parties, clearly demonstrate that the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949¹¹ are fully observed by Israel and that the prisoners are treated humanely and with due respect for all their rights. I am enclosing a report by the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross in respect of the visit they paid to the camp in question on 26 March 1972. The report speaks for itself. In fact, the treatment accorded the prisoners of war is more liberal than that required by the Geneva Convention. The prisoners are granted such facilities as television, radio, including personal transistor radio sets, civilian clothing, no limitation on the number of letters dispatched or received, etc. The humanitarian treatment and liberal conditions of internment of prisoners of war in Israel will remain in force and will not be affected by the aforesaid incident.

In this connexion, attention must be drawn to a statement by an Egyptian army spokesman, reported on 19 April 1972 from Cairo by the Middle East News Agency. Referring to the incident of 18 April, the spokesman voiced an undisguised threat to the safety of Israeli prisoners of war in Egypt. Such a threat against defenceless and guiltless prisoners constitutes a grave violation of the Geneva Convention.

The contents and style of the Egyptian letter indicate that its objective was to utilize a regrettable incident for the purpose of sterile political polemics in disregard of fact and of the interests of the prisoners of war themselves.

Indeed, Israel has on numerous occasions proposed to Egypt that all prisoners of war should be exchanged. Egypt has stubbornly rejected these proposals, thus unnecessarily prolonging the detention and the unavoidable suffering of prisoners, which has lasted already for two years and for some of them even longer. In this connexion, I would draw your particular attention to the "Final observation" in the aforesaid report of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which states:

"The prisoners of war are well treated and the conditions in which they are detained are satisfactory. But, despite the efforts of the delegates, they are becoming more and more depressed and their psy-

chological resistance is declining further and further; the prisoners find it increasingly difficult to accept their detention, which they feel will never end."

There are at present 61 Egyptian prisoners in Israel and 10 Israeli prisoners of war in Egypt. An exchange of all of them would be the most humanitarian solution of the problem and the proposal to Egypt to agree to it is hereby reiterated.

I have the honour to request that this letter and its enclosure be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council and forwarded to the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Report on the visit to 62 Egyptian prisoners of war detained in the prison of the military camp at Sarafand, Israel

The visit was made by Mr. Hans Peter Gasser, Mr. Francois Hohl and Mr. Melchior Trumpy, delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, accompanied by Lt.-Col. Kleczewski, liaison officer.

Date of the visit: 26 March 1972.

Previous visit: 15 March 1972.

Camp commander: Major Schindler.

Doctor: (Lt.) Dr. Reich.

Capacity: 80.

Number of prisoners: 62.

Date captured: 27 December 1969, 22 to 23 January 1970, 8 February 1970, 10-16 December 1970, 6 March 1971 and 1 June 1971.

Nationality: Egyptian.

There has been no change in the living conditions of the detainees since the last visit.

Treatment and discipline

The prisoners of war make no complaint on this point. No disciplinary or punitive measures have been taken since the previous visit.

Food

The menus served on the day of the visit were as follows:

Morning: Semolina, scrambled eggs, cheese, vegetables, olives, bread, margarine, jam, coffee with milk.

Mid-day: Potato soup, meat goulash, rice, vegetables, bread.

Evening: Half a stuffed egg, tinned fish, vermicelli, vegetables, bread, margarine, fruit, hot tea.

Medical care

Prisoner of war Fayez Ali Hedeya has received his orthopaedic shoes. The doctor notes that prisoner of war Fathi Ali Shehata el Mihi had blood in his urine, and he had an analysis done; a specimen was examined at the Assaf Harofé hospital. As the results are not yet known, the doctor cannot yet make any diagnosis. The prisoner is probably suffering from schistosomiasis; a polyp has been detected in his urinary system.

Relations with the outside world

No messages or parcels from their families have reached the prisoners since the previous visit.

Interview without witnesses

After visiting all the prisoners in their sector, the delegates went with the three POW officers into the yard surrounding the building. The good weather had returned and it was warmer, the ground was dry, and there was a little greenery and a

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75 (1950), No. 972.

few flowers, which make the surroundings of the dormitory building look more cheerful. Prisoner of war Hadi el Dawi Mohamed has made a garden in one corner of the yard. The delegation will encourage this activity by getting him some flower and vegetable seeds.

The talk with the three officers was pleasant but not very animated. Most of the prisoners seemed to be depressed. Despite the radio and television programmes they are allowed to watch regularly, which means that they are able to keep up with what is going on in the world, they are bored, and they do not know what to do with their time. Consequently, the complaints about medical treatment are assuming more importance. The delegates tried to cheer the prisoners up; they said they were very grateful to the delegates for the encouragement they gave the prisoners every time they came.

Captain Yahia, who is responsible for the prisoners, signed two lists of articles brought by the delegation, after checking them. The delegates took note of the equipment which the prisoners cannot get at the canteen. The captain handed over

two letters addressed to the Egyptian authorities, which the delegation will forward.

Final interview

The medical officer of the camp, who was on leave for a few days, was not present at this interview. The camp commandant told the delegates that Fathi Ali Shehata's case was being closely followed by the doctors and that he will receive appropriate treatment. The medical report on Lt. Ezz el Din will reach the delegation later.

Nothing else was discussed.

Final remark

The prisoners of war are well treated and the conditions in which they are detained are satisfactory. But, despite the efforts of the delegates, they are becoming more and more depressed and their psychological resistance is declining further and further; the prisoners find it increasingly difficult to accept their detention, which they feel will never end.

DOCUMENT S/10629

Letter dated 2 May 1972 from the representative of Turkey to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]
[3 May 1972]

I have the honour to present herewith the text of a letter dated 1 May 1972 addressed to you by Mr. Fazil Küçük, Vice-President of the Republic of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have Vice-President Küçük's message circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Semih BELEN
*Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Turkey
to the United Nations*

TEXT OF THE LETTER

I have been informed that the representative of the Greek Cypriot Administration at the United Nations has had a document of the Security Council circulated [S/10613] in connexion with a statement which Mr. Rauf Denktash gave to the Greek Cypriot newspaper *Asyrmatos*. In the above-mentioned statement, the text of which consists of 10 pages, the true story of the Cyprus question and the realities concerning Cyprus are explicitly expounded. The Greek Cypriot Administration took and circulated as a document of the Security Council a 10-line passage out of context of the totality of this 10-page statement. I would have wished that the Greek Cypriot Administration had contributed to a better comprehension of the Cyprus question by presenting the full text of Mr. Denktash's statement for the information of the United Nations Organization and its Members. It will be a pleasure for us to provide this service from which the Greek Cypriots have refrained. With this view in mind, you and the delegations accredited to the United Nations are being provided with the full text of Mr. Denktash's statement to the Greek Cypriot newspaper *Asyrmatos* as well as the full text of an explanatory statement given by him to the Turkish Cypriot newspaper *Halkin Sesi* upon the circulation by the Greek Cypriot Administration of only one paragraph of his original statement as a document of the Security Council.

DOCUMENT S/10631

Letter dated 8 May 1972 from the representative of the United States of America to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]
[9 May 1972]

The President of the United States of America today announced that he had directed United States forces in South-East Asia to take additional measures, in con-

junction with the forces of the Republic of Viet-Nam, in response to the new armed attacks launched by North Viet-Nam. The President directed that the entrances