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LETTER DATED 1 NOVEMBER 1955 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on instructions from the Government of Israel, to inform you of the grave situation created by the invasion and continued occupation by Egypt of a portion of the Demilitarised Zone of El Auja (Nitzana) on the Israel side of the international frontier.

This Egyptian action is in clear and unequivocal violation of the General Armistice Agreement of 24 February 1949 between Israel and Egypt; of the cease-fire arranged by the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation on 4 September 1955; and of the explicit assurances given by the Government of Egypt to the Chief of Staff on 24 October to the effect that Egypt would refrain from any action liable to lead to a renewal of violence on the border during the period of the Chief of Staff's visit to United Nations Headquarters in New York on duty.

On 26 October at 0630 hours an Egyptian force crossed the international frontier and attacked an Israel police check-post in the Bir Ein area of the Demilitarised Zone more than half a kilometre inside Israel territory. Israel casualties in this attack were 1 policeman killed, 4 wounded and 2 taken prisoners. The Egyptian force evacuated the post at 0930 hours, whereupon it was reoccupied by the remainder of the police party. One hour later the Egyptian force renewed its attack and forced the police to withdraw to a position on a nearby hill.

Egyptian forces in strength have since then entrenched themselves inside the Demilitarized Zone and gradually extended the perimeter of their penetration so that they now occupy an extensive area of the Zone on a front some two kilometres long, which at some sectors is about one kilometre distant from the international frontier on the Israel side.

The Acting Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation has approached the Egyptian military authorities on no less than four occasions since 26 October in an attempt to cause them to abide by the obligations of the General Armistice Agreement by withdrawing immediately from the Demilitarized Zone. All his appeals have been rejected. The Chief of Staff has similarly informed Israel representatives in New York of the rejection of his own appeals to the Egyptian Government.

The unprovoked attack on the police post on 26 October, followed by the occupation of a large part of the Demilitarized Zone is, in view of the Government of Israel, a calculated aggression aimed at Israel's territorial integrity, and a direct threat to the lives and safety of everyone living in the area.

Since 26 October the Egyptian authorities have extended the range of their aggression against Israel to the Gaza area, which has been relatively quiet for some time: On 29 October a frontier outpost near Nirim was attacked twice on the same day by strong Egyptian army forces; while Kissufim was the objective of a similar attack last night (31 October).

The Government of Israel cannot but view this situation with concern and anxiety.

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

Please accept, Sir, etc.

(signed) M.R. Kidren,
Acting Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

