

to President Eisenhower on July 6, 1954 that Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel had accepted the principles of equitable international sharing of the waters of the Jordan River in a unified development project and the appointment of a neutral impartial authority to supervise withdrawals of water from the river system.

Relations between Israel and Egypt

On January 28 Israel asked the Security Council to consider Egypt's restrictions on the passage through the Suez Canal of ships trading with Israel and interference with shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba. Egypt responded on February 3 by asking the Security Council to discuss violations of the armistice agreement by Israel in the El-Auja demilitarized zone in the southern desert, but did not press the matter after Israel objected that it was to come before a special committee.

Restrictions on shipping in the Suez Canal and interference with ships in the Gulf of Aqaba were debated between February 5 and March 29. On March 29 the Security Council voted on a New Zealand draft resolution which recalled the resolution of September 1, 1951, noted "with grave concern" that Egypt had not complied with this resolution and called upon Egypt to comply "in accordance with its obligations under the Charter". It went on to say that the complaint about interference with shipping in the Gulf of Aqaba should be dealt with in the first instance by the Mixed Armistice Commission. Eight members of the Security Council supported the draft resolution but it was rejected because the U.S.S.R. joined Lebanon in voting against it. The Representative of the Soviet Union argued that under the Constantinople Convention of 1888 freedom of passage for shipping in the Suez Canal was a matter to be taken up by representatives of the signatories rather than by states which might happen to make up the Security Council.

Control of Israel-Jordan Armistice Line

Despite diplomatic intervention by the United States, the United Kingdom and France, groups of Israelis who had had army training and possessed army equipment continued after June 1953 to attack Jordanian villages with a view to discouraging Arab infiltration. In August there occurred reprisal raids on three Jordanian villages, and on the night of October 14-15 a well-armed Israeli force believed to be the equivalent of half a battalion attacked the Jordanian village of Qibiya. Fifty-three persons lost their lives and several buildings were destroyed.

On October 17, to halt a rapid drift toward open hostilities, the United States, the United Kingdom and France referred the question of compliance with the armistice agreements to the Security Council, which obtained from the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization a report on conditions along all the armistice lines. On November 24, by nine votes in favour and none opposed (Lebanon and the U.S.S.R. abstaining), the Security Council adopted a resolution expressing the strongest censure of the "retaliatory action taken at Qibiya by armed forces of Israel", which could only prejudice the chances of a peaceful settlement. It called on Israel to prevent "all such actions" in the future. It also asked Jordan to "continue