

The Middle East

On July 25, the Security Council met to consider mutual complaints of aggression by Israel and Syria. Israel charged Syria with repeated acts of aggression committed by its armed forces and by armed sabotage groups operating against Israel from Syrian territory. Syria complained about an Israeli air attack in the area of its Jordan River development project and denied that it could be held responsible for infiltration into Israel. The Council requested Lieutenant-General Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of UNTSO, to investigate. (The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization—UNTSO—is the military observer group set up in 1949, consisting of personnel from several member nations, to observe and maintain the cease-fire in Palestine. In 1966, Canada maintained a representation of 20 officers.)

On July 29, Mali and Jordan presented a draft resolution condemning the Israeli action; it was not passed, since only six members supported it (with nine abstentions) when it was put to a vote on August 3.

The Security Council met on October 14 to consider an Israeli complaint regarding acts of sabotage and armed infiltration from Syria into Israel. Israel claimed that recent acts of terrorism in Israel formed a pattern of guerilla activity planned in Syria and supported by the Syrian authorities. Syria rejected the accusations as groundless.

Following an inspection by UNTSO of the demilitarized zone and defensive areas, General Bull reported that Israel and Syria had both violated the General Armistice Agreement, and that military personnel and weapons of both countries had been sighted in the demilitarized zone. In addition, he reported an increase in the number of tank positions and defensive fortification complexes in the defensive area on the Syrian side.

A draft resolution reminding Syria of its obligation to prevent the use of its territory as a base of operation for acts contrary to the Armistice Agreement and calling upon both parties to adhere to the Armistice Agreement and to co-operate with the UN machinery in the area was proposed by Britain and the United States but was not put to a vote. A second draft resolution sponsored by six non-permanent members (Argentina, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria and Uganda), inviting Syria to strengthen its measures for preventing such incidents and Israel to co-operate fully with the Israel/Syria Mixed Armistice Commission, was not adopted because the U.S.S.R., a permanent member, voted against it with Jordan, Mali and Bulgaria.

Later in November, the Government of Jordan requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider its complaint regarding an Israeli attack on a Jordanian village (Samu) south of Hebron. Israel claimed the