

either side of the armistice demarcation lines" and developments "which might endanger the maintenance of international peace and security". On April 4, 1956 the Security Council adopted a resolution noting "with grave concern" that the parties had not taken the steps recommended with a view to reducing tension in the area. It considered that the situation on the armistice lines between Israel and its neighbours was such that "continuance is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security". It therefore asked the Secretary-General to undertake a survey of the various aspects of enforcement and of compliance and to arrange with the parties "for the adoption of any measures which after discussion with the parties and with the Chief of Staff he considered would reduce existing tensions", including: "(a) withdrawal of their forces from the armistice demarcation lines; (b) full freedom of movement for observers along the armistice demarcation lines and in the demilitarized zones and in the defensive areas; (c) establishment of local arrangements for the prevention of incidents and the prompt detection of any violations of the armistice agreements."

The Secretary-General went to the Middle East, talked with government leaders about measures which might reduce the toll of violence and on May 9, 1956 reported to the Security Council that the parties had given him "unconditional assurances" that they would maintain the cease-fire. A reservation for self-defence was recognized by the Secretary-General, but he had made it clear that this did "not permit acts of retaliation, which repeatedly have been condemned by the Security Council." In the view of the Secretary-General, one of the gains made as a result of his conversations was that each party now agreed to observe the cease-fire whether the other party complied with other provisions of the armistice agreement or not.

The Secretary-General's report of May 9, 1956 also indicated that a little progress had been made toward carrying out practical measures to reduce tension on the demarcation line. Both Egypt and Israel had accepted the proposal for "an equal number of fixed United Nations observer posts on each side of the line". Egypt had agreed to withdraw its patrols and defensive positions some distance from the demarcation line, although Israel still reserved the right in certain circumstances to send its patrols right up to the line. Joint patrols were not likely to be accepted by either party. It was too soon yet to try to conclude a local commanders' agreement. Marking of the demarcation line had not yet begun. Both parties appeared to be violating Articles VII and VIII of the

armistice agreement, the Secretary-General reported. Israel had the equivalent of "three companies of infantry" in the El Auja demilitarized zone and proposed to keep them there so long as Egypt kept defensive forces on its side of the line not far from the demilitarized zone in contravention of Article VIII of the agreement. Each party charged the other with having introduced prohibited arms into this region in violation of Article VII. The Chief of Staff had proposed that the parties should comply simultaneously with Article VII and subsequently withdraw their armed forces, the withdrawals to be verified by United Nations personnel. Meanwhile the Security Council's attention was drawn to the fact that freedom of movement of United Nations personnel continued to be impeded by the attitude of both the parties in the "defensive areas" and the demilitarized zone.

On June 4, 1956 the Security Council adopted a resolution noting that despite the assurances given to the Secretary-General by all the parties that they would unconditionally observe the cease-fire, "full compliance" with the general armistice agreements and with the Council's resolutions of March 30 and September 8, 1955 had not yet been effected. The Security Council declared that "the parties to the armistice agreements should speedily carry out the measures already agreed upon with the Secretary-General, and should co-operate with the Secretary-General and the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization to put into effect their further practical proposals, pursuant to the resolution of 4 April, with a view to full implementation of that resolution and full compliance with the armistice agreements." It declared that "full freedom of movement of United Nations observers must be respected along the armistice demarcation lines, in the demilitarized zones and in the defensive areas as defined in the armistice agreements, to enable them to fulfil their functions". It endorsed the Secretary-General's view that "the re-establishment of full compliance with the armistice agreements represents a stage which has to be passed in order to make progress possible on the main issues between the parties". Among other things it asked the Secretary-General to continue his good offices with the parties and to keep the Security Council informed.

After further study of the situation in the Middle East the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council on September 12, 1956 that the governments in the region had "not taken any initiatives which could help to start the necessary developments in a positive direction . . . While in many cases they have made energetic efforts to support