

the general conditions on the armistice demarcation line between Egypt and Israel and the causes of the existing tension, and being anxious that all possible steps be taken to preserve security in the area, would: (1) request the Chief of Staff to continue his consultations with the Governments of Egypt and Israel with a view to the introduction of practical measures to preserve security in the area; (2) note that the Chief of Staff had already made certain concrete proposals to that effect; (3) call upon the Governments of Egypt and Israel to cooperate with the Chief of Staff with regard to his proposals, bearing in mind that, in the opinion of the Chief of Staff, infiltration could be reduced to an occasional nuisance if an agreement were effected between the parties on the lines he had proposed; and (4) request the Chief of Staff to keep the Security Council informed of the progress of his discussions.

"Both draft resolutions were adopted unanimously at the 695th and 696th meetings held on 29 and 30 March."

On April 6, 1955 the Security Council took up fresh complaints by Israel, which now cited "repeated attacks by Egypt with special reference to (1) the armed assault at Pattish on 24 March 1955; (2) repeated attacks by mining and gunfire on Israel army units patrolling the Israel-Egyptian border at the Gaza strip between 26 March and 3 April 1955; (3) the attack on an Israel army patrol and on the village of Nahal Oz on 3 April 1955". Israel invoked Article 34 of the Charter (investigation of disputes by the Security Council), charging that overt acts of violence by Egyptian armed forces had replaced infiltration as the main cause of tension between Israel and Egypt. A report from the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization said the mining of tracks used by Israeli army vehicles had been the most important factor contributing to the increased tension. This might well be "retaliatory action by certain elements following the Gaza incidents". He went on to discuss once more the importance of restoring joint patrols, and a local commanders' agreement and the erection of barbed wire fences.

On April 19, 1955 the President of the Security Council "observed that the consensus of opinion was that there was no need for any new action by the Council, inasmuch as the facts brought to the Council's notice and the possible measures to avert frontier incidents in the area of the demarcation line between Egypt and Israel had been fully covered in the resolutions adopted by the Council on 29 and 30 March. He trusted that he was expressing the general view of the members of the Council in appealing to

both sides to give full effect to those resolutions, which were aimed at averting frontier incidents. To achieve that purpose, he urged them to co-operate sincerely with one another".

The Security Council met again on September 8, 1955 to consider another outbreak of violence in the Gaza strip. This began on August 22 with an Israeli attack on an Egyptian post near Gaza, when 3 Arabs were killed and 3 wounded. There followed an organized series of Arab reprisal attacks on vehicles, installations and persons in Israeli territory in which the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization told the Security Council 11 persons had been killed and 9 wounded. The nature of the latter attacks suggested, he said, "that they are the work of organized and well trained groups . . . The sudden resumption of this type of incident after they had practically ceased for three months is significant." On the night of August 31-September 1 an Israeli light-armoured unit attacked and destroyed the police station at Khan Yunis in the Gaza strip. It was alleged that 36 persons had been killed and 13 wounded. A cease-fire did not go into effect until September 4.

The Chief of Staff recommended to the Security Council the erection of an effective physical barrier along the demarcation line and the withdrawal of patrols and defensive positions at least 500 metres on either side of the line. The Security Council adopted unanimously a resolution summarized in the following terms by the Secretary-General in his *Report on the Work of the Organization, 15 June 1955-15 June 1956*: The Council, among other things, "called upon both parties forthwith to take all steps necessary to bring about order and tranquillity in the area, and in particular to desist from further acts of violence and to continue the cease-fire in full force and effect; endorsed the view of the Chief of Staff that the armed forces of both parties should be clearly and effectively separated by measures such as those which he had proposed; declared that freedom of movement must be afforded to the United Nations observers in the area to enable them to fulfill their functions; called upon both parties to appoint representatives to meet with the Chief of Staff and to co-operate fully with him to these ends."

In March 1956, the United States asked for a meeting of the Security Council to consider the status of compliance with the various armistice agreements between Israel and its neighbours and with the Security Council's resolutions of 1955. In explaining this request the United States mentioned particularly a "build-up of armed forces on