

international frontiers or armistice lines without prior consultation" through the commission. The Security Council also reminded Egypt and Israel as member states of the United Nations of their obligations under the Charter to settle their outstanding differences, and that the armistice agreement contemplated "the return of permanent peace in Palestine", and therefore urged them "and other states in the area to take all such steps as will lead to the settlement of the issues between them".

On March 5, 1955 the Security Council received an urgent request from Egypt that it should consider "violent and premeditated aggression committed on 28 February 1955 by Israeli armed forces against Egyptian armed forces inside Egyptian-controlled territory near Gaza, causing many casualties, including 39 dead and 32 wounded and the destruction of certain military installations . . .". Israel immediately asked the Security Council to put on its agenda a complaint of "continuous violations by Egypt of the General Armistice Agreement and of resolutions of the Council, to the danger of international peace and security, by means of: attacks of regular and irregular Egyptian armed forces against Israel armed forces; assaults of raiders from Egyptian-controlled territories on lives and property in Israel; failure of the Government of Egypt to adopt and enforce executive measures against such acts of violence; assertion by Egypt of the existence of a state of war and the exercise of active belligerency against Israel, particularly the maintenance and enforcement of blockade measures; warlike propaganda and threats against the territorial integrity and political independence of Israel; refusal of Egypt to seek agreement by negotiations for an effective transition from the present armistice to peace".

When Egypt's charges against Israel with regard to the attack on Gaza were taken up, the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization reported to the Security Council on March 17 that the Mixed Armistice Commission had found Israel responsible for the attack and considered that it had violated Articles I: 2 and 3, II: 2 and V: 3 of the armistice agreement. The following are extracts from the Secretary-General's summary of the Security Council's proceedings:

"Reviewing the general situation along the armistice demarcation line, the Chief of Staff said that the number of casualties prior to the Gaza incident reflected the comparative tranquillity which had prevailed in that area during the greater part of the period from November 1954 to February 1955. However, repeated minor incidents had helped to

create a state of tension, and although infiltration from Egyptian-controlled territory had not been the only cause of the present tension, it had undoubtedly been one of its main causes. The Chief of Staff recalled that, in an earlier report to the Council, he had suggested that, in order to decrease tension along the demarcation line, the two parties should examine in an informal manner the possibility of agreeing on certain measures, namely: (1) institution of joint patrols along sensitive sections of the demarcation line; (2) negotiation of a local commanders' agreement; (3) erection of a barbed wire obstacle along certain portions of the demarcation line; and (4) manning of all outposts and patrols by regular Egyptian and Israel troops. In conclusion, the Chief of Staff said that he was still of the opinion that, if an agreement were effected between the two parties on the lines he had suggested, and if an honest attempt to fulfil the conditions were made by both parties, infiltration could be reduced to an occasional nuisance, a kind of thieving which Israel must probably regard as inevitable so long as there were vast numbers of poverty-stricken refugees on its borders—more than 200,000 in the Gaza strip alone . . .

"On 28 March, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America submitted a joint draft resolution providing that the Security Council, after noting that the Egyptian-Israeli Mixed Armistice Commission, on 6 March 1955, had determined that a pre-arranged and planned attack ordered by Israel authorities had been committed by Israel regular army forces against the Egyptian army force in the Gaza strip on 28 February 1955, would: (1) condemn that attack as a violation of the cease-fire provisions of the Council's resolution of 15 July 1948 and as inconsistent with the obligations of the parties under the General Armistice Agreement between Egypt and Israel and under the Charter; (2) call again upon Israel to take all necessary measures to prevent such actions; and (3) express its conviction that the maintenance of the General Armistice Agreement was threatened by any deliberate violation of that agreement by one of the parties to it, and that no progress toward the return of permanent peace in Palestine could be made unless the parties complied strictly with their obligations under the agreement and the cease-fire provisions of the Council's resolution of 15 July 1948.

"Another joint draft resolution was submitted on the same date by France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, according to which the Security Council, taking note of those sections of the report by the Chief of Staff which dealt with