

Tiberias to which Israel had replied with a large-scale military raid against Syrian positions. On January 19 the Security Council adopted unanimously a resolution condemning Israel for what it described as a flagrant violation of the Security Council's standing cease-fire resolution of July 15, 1948, the armistice agreement, and Israel's obligations under the Charter. The Security Council expressed "grave concern" at Israel's failure to comply with its obligations and warned that if it did not do so in the future the Security Council would have to consider what further measures under the Charter were required to maintain or restore peace.

In the same month the Secretary-General visited the Middle East briefly to study means whereby the effectiveness of United Nations truce supervision machinery might be increased. There was general uneasiness in the area. In March the United States asked the Security Council to consider the status of compliance with its own recent resolution on Arab-Israeli relations and with the armistice agreements generally. It cited a build-up of armed forces on both sides of the demarcation lines and developments "which might endanger international peace and security". (It will be recalled that Egypt was receiving substantial arms shipments from Czechoslovakia and that Jordan at the beginning of March had dismissed the British Commander-in-Chief of its army). On April 4 the Security Council, agreeing that the situation was serious, asked the Secretary-General to arrange with the parties measures which would reduce existing tensions, such as withdrawal of forces from the armistice demarcation lines, restoration of full freedom of movement for truce observers and other local measures to prevent incidents.

On April 5 Gaza was shelled. Hostilities were halted by action of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), but reprisals by Egyptian-trained fedayeen against Israel continued for a period of some weeks. Meanwhile the Secretary-General in a series of negotiations obtained from all parties unconditional assurances that they would henceforth observe the cease-fire provisions of the armistice agreements, with a reservation only for immediate self-defence. He also discussed practical measures to reduce tension on the armistice demarcation lines. On June 4 the Security Council noted that full compliance with its own past resolutions and with the arrangements suggested by the Secretary-General had not yet been obtained. It called upon the parties to co-operate with the Secretary-General and the Chief of Staff of UNTSO to carry out their practical proposals and to comply fully with the armistice agreements. The Secretary-General was asked to continue his good office and visited the area again during the summer.

In September and October there was a sharp increase in violence on the frontier between Jordan and Israel, with heavy military reprisals against Jordan for incidents in which Jordan was held responsible for the loss of Israeli lives. Jordan, fearing that Israel was preparing for an all-out attack, invited financial assistance and arms from Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia and military assistance from Iraq and the United Kingdom. In mid-October Jordan appealed to the Security Council, and on October 24 entered into a mutual defence pact with Egypt and Syria. This tripartite agreement, as the Prime Minister of Israel was to explain on April 2, 1957, precipitated the attack launched by Israel against Egypt on October 29 which was designed (a) to break Egypt's military strength before it was further