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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS 21st June,

Colonel T. Bonde,

Chief of Staff of the

United Nations Observers

for the United Nations Mediator.

Sir, ־

I have the honour to inform yon that it came to the knowledge of the Provisional Government of Israel today that a ־boat carrying a load of arms has early this morning anchored off Kfar Vitkin in Israel, the transport having ׳been organised by the dissident military Jewish organisation calling itself the Irgun Ivai Leumi. Orders were immediately issued to the military forces of Israel in the vicinity to rush to the spot in order to prevent the landing of the cargo. On having arrived on the scene, our forces found a considerable body of members of the Irgun ^vai Leumi armed and prepared to resist. ' Orders were then issued to overpower them by force, and reports to hand indicate that our commander proceeded to act in accordance with the .orders received. Two Israeli naval units have been summoned from Tel Aviv to stand by and take sueh action as ay be n I understand that our liaison reported to you on the

appearance of the hoat earlier in the day\*

It should >be clear that what is happening in this instance

is an open armed defiance of state authority״ The Provisional

Government is firm in its determination to use every possible -׳

means in its power to enforce the law and prevent a breach of

the truce. According to our information at the moment, the

arms have not yet been offloaded. • We defer our proposals as

to the disposal of the arms till after the situation on,the fore-

shore of Kfar Vitkin has been brought under control.

It would be appreciated if, pending the completion of

today,s operation and a further clarification of the position,

no information were given about the incident to the press.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, \*

Your obedient servant,

M. Shertok,

Minister of Foreign Affairs.ecessary.