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LX/53 TRANSMIT SSCGEN FOLLOWING REPLY UNITED KINGDOM STATEMENT QUOTE ONE
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ISRAEL REGRETS THAT IT ~~IS~~ IS UNABLE ACCEPT AS
ACCURATE STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF UK CONCERNING SHOOTING DOWN BRITISH
AIRCRAFT BY ISRAELI FORCES JANUARY 7TH TWO STATEMENT AFFIRMS THAT THE FIRST
TWO FORMATIONS OF RAF WHICH FLEW OVER ISRAELI POSITIONS ON THAT DAY WERE
CARRYING OUT RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS CONFINED TO EGYPTIAN TERRITORY COMMA
TO ASCERTAIN DEPTH AND SCALE OF ISRAELI INCURSIONS INTO EGYPT COMMA AND
THAT SECOND FLIGHT WAS DESPATCHED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION AS TO FATE OF MISSING
BRITISH PLANES THREE ~~EVER~~ IF FACTS WERE AS SET OUT IN STATEMENT COMMA
DESPATCH OF BRITISH AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT HYPHEN ISRAEL BATTLE ZONE IN
COLLABORATION WITH EGYPTIAN FORCES FOR PURPOSE OF OBTAINING INFORMATION
CONCERNING ISRAELI POSITIONS WOULD CONSTITUTE GRAVE BREACH OF NEUTRALITY
AND WARRANT MILITARY COUNTERACTION AGAINST AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN SUCH
RECONNAISSANCE FOUR ASSERTIONS CONTAINED IN STATEMENT ARE HOWEVER DISPROVED
BY EVIDENCE OF THE TWO BRITISH PILOTS WHO Baled OUT AND LANDED IN ISRAELI
LINES STOP PILOT SECONDCLASS CLOSE FREELY ADMITTED THAT HIS PLANE WHEN
ATTACHED WAS OVER ISRAELI TERRITORY SEMICOLON THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THIS
FACT SEMICOLON AND THAT GUNS ON HIS PLANE AND THOSE OF OTHER PLANES IN
FLIGHT WERE LOADED STOP FLIGHT OFFICER MORLEHAN STATED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS
WERE TO PHOTOGRAPH THE ISRAELI FRONTLINE STOP SINCE AT THAT TIME ISRAELI
LINE OUT ACROSS FRONTIER THESE INSTRUCTIONS NECESSARILY IMPLIED PHOTOGRAPHING
ISRAELI FRONT POSITIONS WITHIN TERRITORY OF ISRAEL AS WELL STOP FLIGHT
OFFICER MORLEHAN CONFIRMED THAT HIS GUNS AND THOSE OF OTHER PLANES WERE LOADED
FIVE BOTH AIRMEN STATED THAT FIRST FORMATION OF BRITISH AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING

JUST ABOVE GROUND STOP AT MOMENT WHEN THIS FLIGHT APPEARED DASH WITHOUT ANY WARNING AND FROM DIRECTION OF ENEMY LINES UNDASH ISRAELI POSITIONS IN AREA WERE BEING ATTACKED FROM AIR STOP THUS BRITISH PLANES WERE UNAVOIDABLY REGARDED AS ENEMY AIRCRAFT AND BECAME TARGET OF DEFENSIVE FIRE DIRECTED FROM ISRAELI GROUND FORCES SIX AS REGARDS SECOND FLIGHT WHICH FLEW IN BATTLE FORMATION OVER ISRAELI LINES ON AFTERNOON JANUARY 7TH AND WERE ENGAGED IN COMBAT BY ISRAELI PLANES DASH AGAIN ON ASSUMPTION THAT THEY WERE HOSTILE AIRCRAFT UNDASH ONE OF THEM CRASHED AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND WITH REMAINS OF FLIGHT OFFICER TATTERSFIELD NEAR SETTLEMENT OF NIRIM AT POINT SOME TEN KILOMETERS INSIDE TERRITORY ISRAEL STOP EVIDENCE HAS FURTHER BEEN RECEIVED TO EFFECT THAT PLANES IN THIS SECOND FLIGHT APPEARED TO BE CARRYING BOMBS COMMA ONE SLUNG UNDER EACH WING SEVEN IT IS THEREFORE CLEAR THAT BRITISH AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN THOSE FLIGHTS DID NOT CONFINE THEMSELVES TO RECONNAISSANCE ON EGYPTIAN SIDE OF FRONTIER BUT THEY WERE INSTRUCTED TO PHOTOGRAPH ISRAELI POSITIONS SEMICOLON THAT THEY IN FACT CROSSED INTO ISRAELI TERRITORY AND WERE ENGAGED WHILE OVER IT SEMICOLON AND THAT THEY CARRIED LOADED GUNS STOP IT IS IMPOSSIBLE RECONCILE THIS ACTION WITH ADHERENCE TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS EIGHT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ISRAEL REGRETS THAT ANY ENCOUNTER SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN ISRAELI FORCES AND RAF AND THAT IN ENCOUNTER WHICH OCCURRED JANUARY 7TH A BRITISH PILOT SHOULD HAVE LOST HIS LIFE STOP IT CONSIDERS HOWEVER THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCIDENT LIES WITH THOSE WHO ORDERED AN OPERATION WHICH IN LIGHT OF EVIDENCE CITED ABOVE CANNOT BUT BE REGARDED AS ILLEGITIMATE AND ILLCONSIDERED UNQUOTE

SHERTOX