MISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR ON PALESTINE

MISSION DU MEDIATEUR DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA PALESTINE

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11 November 1948

TO: His Excellency Moshe Shertok, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government of Israel

The following is the text of a message which I have sent today, 11 November, to my representative in Tel Aviv for transmission to the Provisional Government of Israel

״With reference to Irak Suweidan incident of ninth November,

I have studied carefully Egyptian complaints, Mr. Sytan1 s letter of tenth November presenting Israeli explanation, and eye witness accounts of UN Observers\* As result I have reached following con- elusions. 1) Irrespective of any attempt of Egyptian forces to break out of pocket, on which only information I have is from Mr. Eytan!s letter, police station at Irak Suweidan was subjected to attack by Israeli forced for at least fortyfive minutes, during which heavy artillery, machine gun fire and armoured cars were em- ployed and also a bombing attack by a B17 aircraft accompanied by two fighter planes occurred. All of this was observed by UN Observers prior to their unjustified arrest by Israeli M.P\*s and their removal to Tel Aviv. 2) Attack on the police station and its occupation by Israeli forces unjustified in circumstances and is in contravention of the cease fire ordered by the Security Council in its resolution of 19 October, with which the Provisional Government of Israel has notified its compliance. 3) Any Israeli forces in occupation of the police station or the surrounding area as a result of the fighting on ninth November must be withdrawn.

In this regard your attention is called to the fourth November resolution of the Security Council in pursuance of which provisional truce lines are now being considered by the Committee of the Security Council set up for this purpose. 4) Under the conditions of the truce the Egyptian forces-encircled in the Irak Suweidan and A1 Faluja areas are entitled to non-military supplies, including medical and food supplies, by means of convoys under the supervision and escort of UN Observers. 5) The arrest of UN Observers in the Irak Suweidan area on nine November, who had been left by an Israeli officer who refused to go further, and who were at the time observing the attack on the police station, was a flagrant violation of the resolution of the Security Council of 19 october concerning obstruction of the workof truce supervision -S.