

11-3-49

LINTON MEMISRAEL LONDON

Please transmit FO following reaction our part to representation made by Marriot colon UK Government fully aware fact that accordance resolution November 29 southern tip Negev triangle comprising Palestines share of seafront in Gulf Eilat was included in territory Jewish State and that Israel has consistently claimed that area as coming within purview its sovereignty STOP In these circumstances Government Israel is astonished and deeply disturbed at utterly unwarranted conclusion apparently reached by UK Government to effect that southward movement Israel forces in that area conducted strictly within Israel territory comma indicates aggressive design on part Israel against Aqaba territory which is part TJ STOP It should have been obvious that troop movements proceeding that part Israel territory are perfectly legitimate operations comprising redistribution forces accordance Israel Egypt armistice agreement in no way affecting any third party

PARAGRAPH

HM King TJ addressed Israel Foreign Minister personal message expressing regret at incidents quote in vicinity of Naqb comma in Wadi Araba and in zone of Aqaba unquote Mr Sharett pointed out reply that since Naqb lies on Israel Egypt frontier comma the freedom or otherwise of Israel to maintain troops in its vicinity cannot possibly form subject concern for TJ government which has no locusstandi whatsoever in that area semicolon that Israel units moving in Wadi Araba have scrupulously kept



on Israel bracket formerly Palestine unbracket side of international boundary running along that valley semicolon that while pass within Israel territory several kilometres west of Gharandal the met Arab Legion patrol illegitimately moving within territory Israel which patrol without any provocation on part Israel troop opened fire and after firing few ~~shots~~ shots which were not ret disappeared over frontier into TJ semicolon and that as far as Aqaba zone comprised TJ territory is concerned there has been no attempt by Israel forces to threaten it in any way nor do they intend to cross into that area STOP We have likewise most categorically denied false allegations contained in TJ delegations not transmitted by Acting Mediator to our delegation in Rhodes to effect that Israel forces are engaged in operations against Arab Legion in Wadi Araba and that they are quote attacking Legion positions with tanks and armoured cars unquote we have stated emphatically that no attack whatsoever has been carried out by our forces on any position of Arab Legion and that only incident of which we are aware is that which occurred near Gharandal where as described above Israel forces took no initiative nor retaliatory action STOP Government Israel trusts that UK Government is in no way interested comma by lending ear to false allegations and misrepresentations of facts comma lay itself open to charge of unwittingly distorting true picture of facts of situation which is that Israel forces with perfect legitimacy move within their own territory and harbour no aggressive designs whatsoever.

SHARETT