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Message from the Foreign Minister of Israel
to the Secretary General of the United Nations
to be delivered personally by Mr. W. Eytan at the Lod Airport.

Jerusalem, 14 April 1956

The following is our reply to your message addressed to the Prime
and
Minister/transmitted by Col. Brewster this morning (13)

In our view, interference with legitimate shipping constitutes a
hostile act which is incompatible with the General Armistice Agreement. This
view is endorsed by an express resolution of the Security Council of 1 September
1951, which ruled that in view of the existence and enforcement of the Armistice
Agreement, Egypt is not entitled to claim and exercise belligerent rights.

The acceptance by Egypt of Article 2 (2) cannot be regarded as genuine
and unconditional if interpreted as leaving it open for Egypt to engage in such
hostile acts as she may deem fit.

I would also point out, with reference to your mandate from the Security
Council, that the Security Council resolution of 4 April 1956 to which you refer
"requests the Secretary General to undertake . . . a survey of the various
aspects of the enforcement of and compliance with the four G.A.A.'s". In our
view, this wording entitles the governments concerned to raise with you, under

your terms of reference, the question of any existing infringement of the provisions of the General Armistice Agreement.

I would be grateful for the circulation of this reply together with your message. Your earlier message concerning the specific assurances, as well as the Prime Minister's message to which it was a reply and my reply to it, should not, in our view, be circulated.