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C O P Y

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Hakirya, Israel

F/5/4/56

Jerusalem 5 April 1956

Dear General Burns,

I write to ask whether you can see any justification whatsoever for the opening of machine-gun and mortar fire by the Egyptians, from entrenched and fortified positions, on a regular Israel patrol moving perfectly inoffensively on foot along its usual beat on the Israel side of the armistice line?

You will be aware that this blatantly aggressive action yesterday cost us three young lives and that it was only by the use of artillery fire that we were able to extricate the surviving members of the patrol from what had become a death-trap.

I should appreciate being informed as to what steps you contemplate taking in order to prevail upon Egypt to put an immediate end to this murderous and monstrously provocative behaviour.

Yours sincerely,

M. Sharett

Major-General E.L.M. Burns
Chief of Staff
United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation
Jerusalem