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DELEGATION OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE SITUATION ON THE
ISRAEL - JORDAN FRONTIER

The Israel Delegation to the United Nations, yesterday submitted the following letter to the President of the Security Council:-

"On instructions from the Government of Israel I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Security Council the serious deterioration of the security situation along the Israel-Jordan border since the date of the unconditional cease-fire assurance given by the Government of Jordan to the Secretary General of the United Nations on 26 April 1956.

Since that date a total of 101 violations of the General Armistice Agreement have occurred all of which have been communicated to the Mixed Armistice Commission. Israel casualties during this period have been 7 killed and 6 wounded.

The following is a list of the incidents which have resulted in casualties:

On 15 May 1956, a motorcycle carrying two riders hit a mine on the Wadi Ara road near Megiddo. The stalled vehicle was fired at and hit by a grenade. Both riders were wounded.

On 23 May, Jordanian soldiers opened fire on Israel police guards on Mount Scopus. One policeman was wounded.

On 24 May, a tractor was ambushed and its driver killed near Kubeiba, 9 miles west of the Israel-Jordan border.

On 3 June, Jordanian soldiers opened fire on the Pagi Quarter in Jerusalem, killing one of the residents. The shots were fired from Jordan army positions adjacent to the building occupied by the offices of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

On 5 June, fire was opened on workers near Yad Ghana, two of whom were wounded.

On 24 June, Jordanians opened fire on workers near Sdeh Eliahu and on vehicles passing nearby. Two soldiers were killed and one civilian was wounded.

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On 9 July, a police car was mined near Afulah. One person was wounded.

On the same day, a passenger car was attacked by seven armed men on the Beersheba-Hatseva Road. Two persons were killed.

On the night of 13 July, four infiltrators attacked a passenger car on the road between Yahud and Wilhelma. The driver was killed.

On 15 July, a worker was wounded by a mine at Kastel. Shots were fired at him from Jordan army positions.

The Mixed Armistice Commission, convened in emergency meetings, on five occasions condemned Jordan for its violations during that period:

On 9 May Jordan was condemned for shots fired from the Old City Wall on 7 May.

On 14 May Jordan was condemned for the attack of 9 May on a vehicle near Kfar Saba.

On 19 May Jordan was condemned for the attack of 15 May in Wadi Ara.

On 10 July Jordan was condemned for mining a police car near Afulah on 9 July.

On 15 July Jordan was condemned for the attack on 9 July on a civilian vehicle near Hatseva. (In the resolution adopted on that date, the Mixed Armistice Commission issued a strong call to Jordan authorities to take into consideration its continuous exhortations to terminate such repeated incursions into Israel in violation of the General Armistice Agreement, and called upon the Jordanian authorities to adopt immediate and efficient measures to enforce the provisions of Article IV par.3 and Article III par.3 of the General Armistice Agreement).

It is evident from the nature, frequency and attendant circumstances of the attacks described above, the majority of which have been directed against Israel's main arteries of communication, that they are either the result of deliberate planning by the Jordan authorities or that they are organized and executed with their knowledge and connivance.

These attacks have coincided with renewed activity of Fedayeen gangs based on Jordan, who are recruited, trained and equipped by the Jordan military authorities and operate under their direction.

The conduct of the Jordan Government, together with the fact that no effective measures have been taken by it to prevent such outbreaks must inevitably raise the question of whether this Government still considers itself bound by the unconditional cease-fire assurance given to the Secretary General, and by the General Armistice Agreement of which the cease-fire pledge is an indissoluble part.

I have the honor to request that this letter be circulated among the members of the Security Council."