



WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 04125 191430Z

SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVED BY EITHER PARTY. DAILY REPORTS OF VIOLATIONS ARE REGISTERED BY UNEF OBSERVERS, AS ARE COMPLAINTS BY BOTH GOI AND GOE. ACCORDING TO GORJE, HOWEVER, INCIDENTS ARE LOCAL AND SPORADIC, BOTH IN TIME AND PLACE, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME "FRICTION POINTS" WHERE FREQUENT FIRING OCCURS BECAUSE IDF AND EGYPTIAN ARMY LINES ARE CLOSE TO EACH OTHER. GORJE NOTED THAT SUEZ CITY AREA AND ISMAILIYYA SECTOR SEEM TO BE FOCAL POINTS OF ACTIVITY, AND THAT A "NEBULOUS LITTLE WAR" CONTINUED IN AREA OF JEBEL ATAQA, WHICH UN DOES NOT PATROL BUT WHICH IS THE LOCUS OF SOME INTENSE FIRE-FIGHTS AND, POSSIBLY, SOME EXCHANGE OF TERRITORY. GORJE NOTED THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE A TENDENCY TO NARROW NO-MAN'S LAND SEPARATING FORCES, PARTICULARLY ON EAST BANK WHERE THEIR TERRITORIAL IMPERATIVE RUNS HIGH, AND THIS, IN TURN, TENDS TO GENERATE MORE INCIDENTS. UN, HOWEVER, REGARDS CEASEFIRE AS "NEVER HAVING BROKEN DOWN." (COMMENT: THIS POLITICAL VIEW IS REITERATED AT VIRTUALLY EVERY BRIEFING BY UNEF SPOKESMAN.)

(B) TECHNICALLY, THE LETTER OF THE AGREEMENT WAS KEPT INSOFAR AS DISCUSSIONS BEGAN VERY SHORTLY AFTER SIGNATURE OF THE ACCORD. DISENGAGEMENT, HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN EFFECTED IN ANY WAY, DESPITE FACT THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI MILITARY NEGOTIATORS AT KM 101 IN LATE NOVEMBER LEAPFROGGED QUESTION OF OCTOBER 22 LINES TO CONCENTRATE ON DISPOSITION OF IDF FORCES DEEP INTO SINAI WITH CONSIDERATION OF CONCOMITANT THINNING-OUT OF EGYPTIAN FORCES IN SECOND AND THIRD ARMY AREAS ON EAST BANK OF CANAL.

(C) ACCORDING TO GORJE, SUEZ IS RECEIVING DAILY SUPPLIES OF FOOD, WATER, AND MEDICINE; AND WOUNDED FROM THE TOWN OF SUEZ ARE BEING EVACUATED ON A REGULAR BASIS. FROM ALL APPEARANCES, THIS ARTICLE OF THE AGREEMENT IS IN FULL EFFECT.

(D) ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO PERMIT TRANSPORT OF FOOD AND SOME MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THIRD ARMY AREA ON EAST BANK. NEVERTHELESS, MANY OBSTACLES ARE PLACED IN THE WAY OF MOVEMENT OF CERTAIN NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES, APPARENTLY ON SOMEWHAT ARBITRARY BASIS. GORJE STATES THAT ON VARIOUS

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 04125 191430Z

OCCASIONS ISRAELIS STATIONED ON BANKS OF CANAL TO "SUPERVISE" TRANSIT OF SUPPLIES TO EAST BANK HAVE REFUSED PERMISSION FOR CROSSING OF BLANKETS AND KEROSENE. MOST RECENT INCIDENT OCCURRED YESTERDAY, DECEMBER 18, WHEN ISRAELIS WOULD NOT PERMIT PASSAGE OF TENTS TO THIRD ARMY. ANOTHER SPECIFIC CAUSE OF FRICTION EXISTS OVER A QUESTION OF KABRIT FORCES, A GROUP OF SOME HUNDREDS OF EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS CAUGHT IN A POCKET ON EAST BANK OF BITTER LAKES SEPARATED BY SIX KILOMETERS FROM MAIN THIRD ARMY POSITION ON EAST BANK. ISRAEIS WILL NOT PERMIT PASSAGE OF ANY SUPPLIES OR MEDICINES TO THIS GROUP.

(E) UN CHECKPOINTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED ON CAIRO/SUEZ ROAD. NEVERTHELESS, ISRAELIS STILL CONTROL ACCESS TO SUEZ VIA THEIR OWN CHECKPOINTS AND INSIST ON RIGHT OF INSPECTION OF ALL CARGO GOING INTO SUEZ AND ALL WOUNDED LEAVING SUEZ CITY. REGARDING PARTICIPATION OF ISRAELI OFFICERS IN "SUPERVISING" CARGO MOVING TO EAST BANK OF CANAL, GORJE SAID THAT PROPER WORD WOULD BE "INSPECT," NOT "SUPERVISE."

(F) POW QUESTION IS STILL OPEN. ACCORDING TO LATEST INFORMATION, ISRAELIS NOW HOLD 40 EGYPTIAN POWS CAPTURED SINCE LAST POW EXCHANGE ON NOVEMBER 22. ISRAELIS HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO REPATRIATE THEM, BUT HAVE LINKED THEIR RETURN TO EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT THAT SEARCH FOR CORPSES OF ISRAELIS KILLED DURING THE WAR CONTINUE, AND TO RETURN OF BARUCH MIZRAHI, WHO HAS BEEN HELD BY EGYPTIANS FOR ALMOST A YEAR ON CHARGES OF SPYING FOR ISRAEL.

2. COMMENT: OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT, DESPITE BREACHES OF EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI ACCORD AND VIOLATIONS OF CEASEFIRE ON ALMOST CONTINUAL BASIS, ACCORD IS WORKING IN THE SENSE THAT IT HAS MODERATED HIGHLY UNSTABLE SITUATION THAT EXISTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER CEASEFIRE OF LATE OCTOBER. IT HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED A MECHANISM WHEREBY EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK OUT SUBAGREEMENTS ON POINTS WHICH, HAD THEY BEEN LEFT UNRESOLVED, PRESENTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER (AND IN SOME CASES, ALMOST IMMEDIATE) ARMED CONFLICT, AND CREATED A FRAMEWORK FOR THE FIRST MEANINGFUL EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS SINCE

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS

EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 04 CAIRO 04125 191430Z

THE EARLY 1950'S. REGARDING LATTER POINT, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FAILURE OF DISCUSSIONS ON POINT B AT KILOMETER 101 TO RESULT IN ANY DISENGAGEMENT OF ISRAELI FORCES HAS LEFT A RESIDUE OF DISTRUST IN EGYPTIAN MINDS THAT HAS AFFECTED BOTH THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PEACE CONFERENCE AT GENEVA, AND THEIR VIEW OF US INTENTIONS AND CAPABILITIES IN ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, HEYKAL CONTINUES PEDDLE "ARE WE BEING TRAPPED" LINE.
EILTS

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY