

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION REPORT. 1807. JUNE 8, 1967

1. USS LIBERTY - FOLLOWING A TORPEDO ATTACK THIS MORNING (1237 ZULU) BY ISRAELI PLANES AND MB'S, THE LISTING US RESEARCH SHIP, USS LIBERTY, WAS LIMPING NNW AT 8 KNOTS. CONTINUOUS FIGHTER COVER IS BEING PROVIDED BY AIRCRAFT FROM THE CARRIERS SARAT GA AND AMERICA, WHOSE PILOTS ARE INSTRUCTED TO USE FORCE, IF NECESSARY, TO PROTECT THE SHIP OR THEMSELVES. SHE IS IN NO DANGER OF SINKING. SECRETARY RUSK STRONGLY EXPRESSED OUR DISMAY OVER THE INCIDENT TO ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HARMAN, ALTHOUGH HE SAID WE APPRECIATE THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE GOI OWNED UP TO THE ACTION.

2. FRENCH SPARE PARTS - THE GOAT HAS INFORMED THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AT PARIS THAT THE FRENCH ARMS EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED INSOFAR AS "SPARE PARTS ONLY" ARE CONCERNED.

3. WHEELUS EXPLOSION - 1/2 LB. OF TNT WAS DETONATED AT THE MAIN GATE OF WHEELUS AIR FORCE BASE TODAY AT 1955 ZULU. NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED. WITH POPULAR LIBYAN FEELINGS RUNNING HIGH, EMBASSY TRIPOLI IS HEARING NUMEROUS RUMORS OF IMPENDING DEMONSTRATIONS. FRIDAY MAY BE CRITICAL DAY IN LIBYAN GOVERNMENT'S

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EFFORTS TO DAMP DOWN SUBSTANTIAL PRESSURES AGAINST ITS MODERATE POLICIES. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY REDUCING STAFF TO A MINIMUM, REMOVING ALL CLASSIFIED FILES, AND, IF NECESSARY, WILL DESTROY CRYPTO EQUIPMENT.

4. TUNISIA MAINTAINS TIES - PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TOLD AMBASSADOR RUSSELL THIS MORNING THAT TUNISIA WOULD NOT BREAK RELATIONS WITH THE US. ALTHOUGH HE HAD FELT IT NECESSARY TO MANIFEST SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARAB CAUSE, NOT A SINGLE TUNISIAN SOLDIER WOULD BE SET TO THE COMBAT AREA IF HOSTILITIES END SOON.

5. SUDAN BREAK-OFF - SUDANESE FOREIGN OFFICE UNDERSECRETARY KHALIFAH ABAS SAID THAT THE SUDAN WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO HAVING CONSULAR, ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS REMAIN IN KHARTOUM AND IN WASHINGTON. AS HE SAW IT, THIS WOULD MEAN WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADORS, MILITARY ATTACHES AND POLITICAL OFFICERS.

6. MILITARY SITUATION - (A) CONGEN JERUSALEM REPORTED AT 1300 ZULU THAT THE CEASE-FIRE HAD TAKEN EFFECT IN THE JERUSALEM AREA. (B) SYRIAN FRONT - ISRAELI AIRCRAFT WERE ATTACKING SYRIAN POSITIONS OVERLOOKING THE HULA VALLEY AND THE SEA OF GALILEE. THE SYRIANS WERE CONTINUING TO SHELL BORDER SETTLEMENTS IN GALILEE AT 1800 ZULU. OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE' PREDICTS STRONG IDF NIGHT ACTION TO SILENCE THEM. (C) JORDAN FRONT - JORDAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMED GENERAL JULL THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD BOMBED MAFKAO TODAY.

WHEN UNTSO CONVEYED THIS TO THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE ONLY ISRAELI COMMENT WAS THAT IRAQI FORCES WERE IN THE MAFKAO AREA. (D) SINAI FRONT - ISRAEL CLAIMS TO HAVE CUT OFF THE MAIN ESCAPE ROUTES FOR EGYPTIAN FORCES ACROSS THE SUEZ CANAL. THE ISRAELIS INDICATED THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS DEVELOPING WITH EGYPTIAN ARMOR CUT OFF IN SINAI. APPARENTLY, SOME OF THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING TOOK PLACE NEAR THE MITLA PASS, WHERE RISING EGYPTIAN RESISTANCE WAS REPORTED. ISRAEL SAID THE EGYPTIANS WERE DRIVEN FROM THE PASS.

7. ARAB REFUGEES IN JORDAN - IN RESPONSE TO OUR SOUNDINGS OF THE GOJ ABOUT THE RELIEF NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES, THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR SAID HE FEELS GOJ HAS ENOUGH SUPPLIES IN ALL CATEGORIES FOR THEIR NEEDS. HE ESTIMATED THAT SOME 20-30 THOUSAND REFUGEES HAD ARRIVED OR WERE EXPECTED ON THE EAST BANK.

8. HUSSAYN-NASSER TALK BROADCAST BY ISRAEL - ISRAEL RADIO IS BROADCASTING THE ALLEGED TEXT OF A HUSSAYN-NASSER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 6, WHICH ISRAEL CLAIMS TO

NVE INTERCEPTED. IT INDICATES THAT BOTH MEN DECIDED TO CLAIM (FALSELY) THAT US AND UK AIRCRAFT WERE PARTICIPATING IN ATTACKS AGAINST THE ARABS.

9. ISRAELI-UAR CEASE FIRE. THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN INFORMED THE SYG TODAY THAT THE UAR HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE CEASE-FIRE CALLS CONTAINED IN THE SC RESOLUTIONS OF JUNE 6 AND 7. ACCEPTANCE WAS CONDITIONAL ON ISRAELI OBSERVANCE OF THE CEASE-FIRE.

10. UNITED NATIONS. THE USSR AND THE US INTRODUCED DRAFT RESOLUTIONS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON. THE US DRAFT, REVISED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE UAR'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE CEASE FIRE, CALLS ON ISRAEL, JORDAN AND THE UAR TO PRESERVE IT; INSISTS THAT OTHER PARTIES COMPLY WITH IT; AND CALLS FOR DISCUSSIONS AFTERWARDS AMONG THE PARTIES CONCERNED LOOKING TOWARD "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VIABLE ARRANGEMENTS ENCOMPASSING THE WITHDRAWAL AND DISENGAGEMENT OF ARMED PERSONNEL" AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STABLE AND DURABLE PEACE. THE SOVIET DRAFT CONDEMS ISRAEL'S "AGGRESSIVE ACTIVITIES" AND DEMANDS THE WITHDRAWAL OF IDF FORCES FROM ARAB TERRITORY. THE COUNCIL WILL MEET AGAIN AT 3 P.M. TOMORROW.

11. EVACUATION -

(A) LEBANON - 3,150 EVACUEES WERE AIRLIFTED FROM BEIRUT ON JUNE 7 ON 29 CHARTER FLIGHTS, INCLUDING ALL OFFICIAL DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL. 54 OFFICIALS OUT OF 220 WILL REMAIN AT THE EMBASSY.

(B) ISRAEL - THE EMBASSY REPORTS THAT REQUESTS FOR TRANSPORTATION ARE DOWN TO ZERO. EXTENSIONS OF EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HAVE NOW BEEN TERMINATED, SINCE BANKING FACILITIES, AS ALMOST ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES, ARE OPERATING NORMALLY.

(C) SUWAN - THE AMBASSADOR CONTINUES TO PURSUE WITH GOS OFFICIALS THE PROBLEM OF OPENING THE AIRPORT FOR EVACUATION. NO MOVEMENT IS EXPECTED UNTIL JUNE 9 AT THE EARLIEST.

(D) LIBYA - THREE USAF PLANES HAVE EVACUATED 250 PERSONS FROM BENGHAZI.

(E) TUNISIA - THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED STRONG ASSURANCES FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF AMERICAN LIVES AND PROPERTY; THE SITUATION IS CALM.

(F) SAUDI ARABIA - 1100 DEPENDENTS OF ARAMCO EMPLOYEES BEGIN

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DEPARTING TODAY. KING FAISAL HAS URGENTLY REQUESTED ALL FOREIGN AIRLINES THAT NORMALLY FLY OVER SAUDI ARABIA TO CEASE DOING SO UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

(G) UAR - ALL BUT 6 OFFICIAL AMERICANS WILL BE EVACUATED IN TWO SPECIAL TRAINS LEAVING FOR ALEXANDRIA ON JUNE 16. PAN AMERICAN OIL COMPANY, HAVING BEEN REQUESTED BY THE UAR TO RESUME OPERATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PLANS TO RETAIN 199 AMERICANS AND 66 THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IN CAIRO.

(H) JERUSALEM - WITH CEASE-FIRE IN EFFECT, CONGEN SEES NO REASON TO EVACUATE USG DEPENDENTS. OTHER AMERICANS ARE STILL BEING ADVISED TO LEAVE, ALTHOUGH CONTACT HAS NOT BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED WITH US CITIZENS IN THE OLD CITY, OR ELSEWHERE ON THE WEST BANK.

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