



1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	Ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774						86455	
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

FROM TEL AVIV TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

12091/115

Sir J. Nicholls

No. 187

April 13, 1956.

D. 10.17 a.m. April 13, 1956.

R. 11.00 a.m. April 13, 1956.

PRIORITY

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 187 of April 13

Repeated for information to Cairo

UKDel New York

Amman

And Saving to Washington

Beirut

Jerusalem

Bagdad

P.O.M.E.F.

Ankara

Damascus

Paris

Gaza incidents.

Press this morning publishes an exchange of letters between Secretary-General of United Nations and Israel Prime Minister regarding observance of Article II of Israel/Egypt Armistice Agreement. Text will presumably be available to you from other sources.

2. In this exchange Mr. Hammarskjöld asked Mr. Ben Gurion for an unconditional undertaking to observe this article in its entirety. On April 9 Mr. Ben Gurion gave the undertaking "it being understood that Egypt will do likewise". Mr. Hammarskjöld replied that the Egyptian Government had given the same undertaking subject to a reservation on the right to self defence. He wrote that "I understand that the reservation does in no way detract from the unconditional undertaking". On April 12 Mr. Ben Gurion replied to Mr. Hammarskjöld drawing attention to the incidents reported in my telegrams Nos. 181 and 183 and saying "I should like to understand whether your interpretation of the reservation made by Colonel Nasser in regard to the observance of Article II (2) has been accepted and confirmed by him or whether this is merely an expression of your attitude which does not commit the Egyptian Government. I feel confident that you will not rest content with securing an undertaking to implement Article II (2) but will insist on the compliance by Egypt with all other provisions of the General Armistice Agreement".

Foreign Office pass UKDel New York as my telegram No. 21 and Saving to Washington, Jerusalem, P.O.M.E.F., Damascus, Beirut, Bagdad, Ankara and Paris as my telegrams Nos. 34, 10, 22, 16,

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774			86455			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

Tel Aviv telegram No. 187 to Foreign Office

-2-

21, 15, 9 and 25 respectively.

[Repeated to UKDel New York and Saving to Washington, Jerusalem, P.O.M.E.F., Damascus, Beirut, Bagdad, Ankara and Paris]

EEEE

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Wikely

R 1091/116

No. 137  
April 13, 1956

D. 1.30 p.m. April 13, 1956

R. 2. 6 p.m. April 13, 1956

PRIORITY

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 137 of April 13.  
Repeated for information to Amman, Cairo, Tel Aviv  
and Saving to Beirut, Damascus, Ankara, Bagdad,  
Paris Washington, UKDEL New York,  
P.O.M.E.F.

I have just spoken with the British Pilot of Arab Airways aircraft involved in an incident with fighter aircraft yesterday to the east of the Dead Sea.

2. Aircraft in question took off from Jerusalem for Cairo at 1710 hours local time. Twenty-five minutes later, while flying close to Kerak, the pilot saw two fighters carrying what he took to be Israel markings (a blue star) approaching him from the east (repeat east). They appeared to be of Mustang type. They dived at him several times. He let down his undercarriage and turned north east. After a short time the fighters disappeared and pilot turned back on to his course and continued in the direction of Akaba after contacting Amman Z airport authorities. One of the passengers said the fighters had made off flying low towards the west. Another passenger claims to have seen one burst of fire from the guns of one of the fighters, but the pilot cannot confirm this.

3. The aircraft reached Cairo safely. Pilot returned to Jerusalem this morning for interrogation by Jordan authorities and air company officials.

4. I understand that Jordan will put in a complaint to the Mixed Armistice Commission.

Foreign Office please pass Saving to Ankara, Bagdad, Paris, Washington and UKDEL New York as my telegrams Nos. 2, 5, 22, 21 and 17 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Ankara, Bagdad, Paris, Washington and UKDEL New York]

ZZZ



CONFIDENTIAL

FROM TEL AVIV TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

VR 1091/17 FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir J. Nicholls  
No. 193  
April 13, 1956

D: Untimed April 13, 1956  
R: 8.18 p.m. April 13, 1956

IMMEDIATE  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 193 of April 13.

Repeated for information to Cairo	Washington	Amman
	P.O.M.E.F. Jerusalem	
and Saving to Bagdad	Damascus	UKDel New York
	Paris	Ankara.

Gaza.

I asked to see the Foreign Minister today. He received me in Tel Aviv.

2. I said he would have noticed I had not this time been instructed to call on him to counsel restraint. That, I felt sure, was because I had been able to report at an early stage with conviction, my belief that Israel would show all possible restraint. I thought myself that she had done so, and that this view was shared in London.

3. I went on to say there were nevertheless two important reservations I must make. Firstly I could not believe that the shelling of Gaza was either necessary or wise, and I much regretted that I had been misled by an official communication into reporting that the object of shelling was simply to silence an Egyptian gun position. We now know there had been no gun positions in Gaza itself. Secondly there were reports today, which I thought were probably true, that Israeli fighters had penetrated deep into Jordan and shadowed a civilian aircraft flying to Cairo. If this report proved accurate the world would not share Israel's indignation at yesterday's violation of her air space by Egyptian aircraft. Mr. Sharett took note of both points and, on the first asked me to believe that there had been no intention to deceive.

/ 4.



CONFIDENTIAL

Tel Aviv telegram No. 195 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

4. Other points of interest were

(a) Mr. Sharett said he feared Fedayeen activities were not over. There were indications that more attacks were likely and that the intention was to attack populace places. He was considering sending a warning of this to the Secretary General in Cairo. I said that if the Israel Government believed their information to be reliable they would be well advised to do so.

(b) The Secretary General had replied to Mr. Ben Gurion's message of yesterday (my telegram No. 187, last paragraph) with a telegram which asked for statement of Israel's attitude on a number of points. Mr. Ben Gurion had replied (unconsciously echoing Fawzi) that these could conveniently be dealt with orally when the Secretary General came here on April 17. He explained that Israel Government felt at a disadvantage when all their communications with the Secretary General were in writing and liable to become public property, whereas corresponding Egyptian comments, proposals and counter proposals were oral and could be disavowed at any time.

5. Mr. Sharett ended by expressing appreciation of the release of Meteers and hoped that we would not stop them.

Foreign Office pass to Cairo Immediate, Washington and P.O.M.E.F. Priority and Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos. 51, 52, 70, 40 and Bagdad, Damascus, UKDel New York, Paris and Ankara as my Saving telegrams Nos. 16, 17, 17, 26 and 10 respectively.

[Repeated to Cairo, Washington, P.O.M.E.F. and Jerusalem and Saving to Bagdad, Damascus, UKDel New York, Paris and Ankara].

ADVANCE COPIES

Private Secretary  
Sir I. Kirkpatrick  
Mr. Shuckburgh  
Head of Levant Department

lllll

SECRET

FROM AMMAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

R10911/18 DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Duke

No. 613

April 17, 1956.

D. 11.26 a.m. April 17, 1956.

R. 11.54 a.m. April 17, 1956.

PRIORITY

SECRET

Addressed to Tel Aviv telegram No. 93 of April 17, 1956.

Repeated for information to: Foreign Office  
P.O.M.E.F.  
Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Incidents.

We have seen a copy of the order issued on April 3 to the brigade in the Jerusalem area by the Legion Chief-of-Staff, designed to obviate incidents in no-man's-land in Jerusalem. Summary as follows:-

(a) The brigade is not to open fire on people entering no-man's-land, in accordance with Jordan's obligations under the Local Commanders' Arrangements, except when people entering are:

- (i) soldiers in the strength of a section or more
- (ii) civilians to the number of nine or more, and believed to be carrying out military activities
- (iii) opening fire on the Legion.

(b) In the latter case, fire will be returned with the same weapon as is being directed into Jordan, otherwise one warning shot will be fired under the supervision of an officer.

(c) In other areas, a warning shot will be fired if persons are seen entering no-man's-land or crossing the demarcation line: if the persons do not return, shoot to kill will be ordered.

2. These orders admittedly have been issued to prevent incidents in Jerusalem from which Israel could make propaganda capital

/through

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774			86455			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

SECRET

Amman telegram No. 613 to Foreign Office

-2-

through United Nations channels, but they represent a valid attempt to obviate unnecessary shootings by the Legion in the Jerusalem no-man's-land.

Foreign Office pass Priority to Tel Aviv and routine to POMEF 289.

[Repeated to Tel Aviv and P.O.M.E.F.].

DISTRIBUTED TO:-

Levant Department  
African Department  
Eastern Department

Q Q Q Q



1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774			86455			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL  
DISTRIBUTION

R 1091/119

Mr. Wikeley

No. 145  
April 18, 1956

D. 10.28 a.m. April 18, 1956  
R. 10.54 a.m. April 18, 1956

PRIORITY  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Amman telegram No. 71 of April 18.  
Repeated for information to Foreign Office and P.O.M.E.F.  
And Saving to Tel Aviv.

Your telegram No. 93 to Tel Aviv: Jerusalem Incidents.

Whatever the Legion's instructions are, there have been three occasions recently when shots were fired from the Old City into the Israel sector of Jerusalem. These were:

- (i) On March 27 at 1800 hours a single shot from the Old City wall wounded a man and a boy in the Mamilla Road;
- (ii) On April 5, at 1340 hours, a shot from the Old City wall [grp undec? wounding] a man in the Street of Prophets;
- (iii) On April 13, at 1710 hours, two shots were fired from a position south of St. Stephen's tomb towards St. John's Hospital on the Israel side wounding one boy.

2. I have checked the details with the chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission who is in no doubt of the facts. I have drawn the attention of Mehafez to this sniping and I have begged him to try to ensure that it stops. I pointed out to him that should anyone be killed on the Israel side, the reaction is likely to be fierce.

3. Do you think I could speak to the new local Brigade Commander (Colonel Izzat Hassan)? I would certainly have done so had he been British, but my intervention now might do more harm than good. The shots from the City wall would hardly have been fired except by the Arab Legion or at least with their connivance.

Foreign Office pass P.O.M.E.F. as my telegram No. 63.

[Repeated to P.O.M.E.F.]

DISTRIBUTED TO:  
Levant Department  
Eastern Department  
African Department.

ZZZZ

10 APR 1956

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774						86455	
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM AMMAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL  
DISTRIBUTION

R 1091/119

Mr. Duke  
No. 627  
April 19, 1956

D. 11.50 a.m. April 19, 1956  
R. 12.26 p.m. April 19, 1956

PRIORITY  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Jerusalem telegram No. 66 of April 19.  
Repeated for information to Foreign Office, P.O.M.E.F.  
and Tel Aviv.

12.  
20/4

R 1091/119

Your telegram No. 71, paragraph 3.

I think that it might be better for Gammou to speak to Izzat Nassan, whom he knows well, either directly or through the M.A.C. and I am telling him to take an early opportunity of going so after consultation with you.

Foreign Office pass P.O.M.E.F. 298 and Tel Aviv 94.

[Repeated to P.O.M.E.F. and Tel Aviv].

DISTRIBUTED TO:  
Levant Department  
Eastern Department  
African Department

vvv

*Interests* → 1

V

LEVANT DEPARTMENT

✓  
VR 1091/120

FROM *Sir J. Nicholls*  
*Tel Aviv*  
 to *Mr. Shackburgh*  
 No. 1035/566  
 Dated *April 16*  
 Received in Registry— *April 19.*

Fedayeen.

Comments on ~~the~~ remarkably steady attitude in Israel towards ~~the~~ incidents, and on the individual reactions of Ben Gurion and Sharett to ~~the~~ fedayeen attacks on children in ~~the~~ synagogues at Shafrir.

References to former relevant papers

107  
95

MINUTES

*Sir J. Nicholls' telegram no. 180 suggested that we should say something appreciative in Parliament about Israeli steadiness in the face of fedayeen raids. The J/S replied that he would bear the suggestion in mind. But no opportunity has yet come up for acting on it.*

*The conclusion to be drawn from this letter is that public opinion in Israel, as in other countries, can provide a convenient excuse for outrageous measures but seldom forces them on the Govt; and that on this occasion the Govt wisely decided against a further reprisal.*

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)	(Index)
<i>[Signature]</i> 30/4	<i>[Signature]</i> 27/10/57

References to later relevant papers

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]* 23/4  
*[Signature]* 23/4  
*African Dept.*  
*[Signature]* 26/4

SECRET



BRITISH EMBASSY,  
TEL AVIV.  
April 16, 1956.

*Intentionally*  
*(1035/56 G) Sir I K...  
L...  
C.M.G.*

*My dear Evelyn*

*R1091/20*

I think my telegrams have kept you reasonably well in the picture about the course of the recent flare-up between Israel and Egypt, and I will not attempt any general account of the incidents. It might, however, be useful if I jotted down one or two disconnected thoughts on the subject.

First of all, as I reported in my telegram No. 168 of April 9, the general attitude here has been quite remarkably steady, and the atmosphere much less emotional and truculent than on earlier occasions of the same sort. This is all the more remarkable in view of the scale of the fedayeen attacks launched this time, because (as I have more than once reported) it is fedayeen attacks more than any other form of aggression to which the Israelis feel themselves (and indeed are) most vulnerable. They know that they cannot prevent fedayeen from getting across the frontiers and that, whatever steps the police and army may take, the fedayeen cannot fail to bring off a number of successful murders and acts of sabotage. On this occasion the Israelis found it necessary to close the main roads (including the main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road) from dusk until dawn; and there were frequent police checks on all main roads during the hours of daylight. Armed police were in evidence everywhere (even at strategic points in Tel Aviv) and I find it extraordinary that all these measures, coupled with the successes of the fedayeen, did not produce a more panicky reaction. I think that two factors chiefly contributed to this - first, the fact that a considerable number of fedayeen were killed or captured and, secondly, the fact that the Government evidently did everything it could to discourage over-dramatisation in the press.

As you know, the view of the Government here has always been that fedayeen activities can only be stopped at the source - that is, by making the Egyptians decide that the game is not worth the candle. On this occasion, partly no doubt as a result of Hammarskjold's presence in the area and with the Security Council's condemnation of the Kinneret raid in mind, they decided not to react by an attack on Egyptian territory, but to try to deal with the fedayeen inside the country. Had they succeeded in rounding up the gang which broke through to the Ramleh area and perpetrated the synagogue murders, I believe they would have decided that fedayeen could after all be dealt with effectively inside Israel and that reprisals were unnecessary and likely to be disadvantageous. As it is, though they had considerable successes, the point is not proven and I think we must reckon on a 50-50 probability that any new outburst of fedayeen activities will be dealt with by the "orthodox" method of reprisals. Because of this risk, I have made a considerable point in all my conversations of the merit Israel had acquired this time in the outside world by her steadiness and by the avoidance of retaliation. This is of course the reason why I sent my telegram No. 180 of April 12.

C.A.E. Shuckburgh, Esq.,  
C.B., C.M.G.,  
Foreign Office,  
London S.W. 1.

/One other ....

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	Ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774			86455				
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							



2.

One other snippet of information may be of interest. Sharett told me yesterday that the exchange of messages between Hammarskjold and Ben Gurion, as published in the press, was not complete; and he showed me, almost with pride, a missing message from himself to Hammarskjold. It was by way of a reply to Hammarskjold's telegram of April 11 quoting the Egyptian assurances about observing Article II(2) of the Armistice Agreement - a message which apparently reached Sharett in Jerusalem simultaneously with the news of the revolting fedayeen attack on children at prayer in the synagogue at Shafrir. Sharett's reply was almost hysterical in tone, full of emotive epithets and highly coloured phrases about the worthlessness of Nasser's assurances. It contrasted most oddly with the relatively sober tone of Ben Gurion's message to Hammarskjold (particularly that dated April 12) and the difference throws an interesting light on the characters of the two men. The fact is that, though Sharett is temperamentally a moderate and Ben Gurion an activist, the latter has more moral fibre than Sharett and reacts much better and more sensibly in a real emergency.

I am sending copies of this letter to Roger Makins, Bob Dixon and Humphrey Trevelyan.

Yours ever  
Jock Lill AL.

V  
 LEVANT DEPARTMENT

VR 1091/121

15/5  
 FROM Mr Murray  
 Cairo  
 to Mr Rose  
 No. 1072/201/56  
 Dated April 16  
 Received in Registry April 14.

Recruitment of forces.  
 Reports information gathered on Israeli recruitment in France, Italy, South Africa, Canada, Australia and Argentina.

References to former relevant papers  
 59

MINUTES

A useful survey.  
 Copies of this letter might be sent to the CRO as suggested, together with copies of that under reply and the telegrams which gave rise to the correspondence.  
 Copy also Washington, + POMEF.

(Print)

(How disposed of) 25/5  
 Letter on P.W. SCRO  
 (W) Washington 28/5  
 ✓ P.O.-M. E.F. 4  
 Entered paper 14/6  
 (W) Fred Brown

African Dept. 14/5  
 G.R.D. (no. Reg. 11/5) a.a.  
 P. Amene 23/4  
 P.M.D. 24/4

A) Chomany Cairo to Levant Dept

1072/209/56 April 17.

This has been copied as above.

(Action completed)	(Index)
EMR 24/5	1072/13/51

R. 26/4

References to later relevant papers  
 7/140

Please send the  
same copy of this letter  
to Tel Aviv ref. theirs  
of June 7 - 11910156.  
(entered at VR 1091/159).

D.  
13/6

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774				86455			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							



BRITISH EMBASSY, ✓

CAIRO.

April 16, 1956.

(1072/201/56)

CONFIDENTIAL

R1091/121

*SL*

*Dear Michael,*

Please refer to your letter to the Ambassador VR 1091/59 of April 6 concerning Colonel Nasser's allegation that Israel is recruiting personnel for her armed forces abroad and the possibility that this is a pretext for recruiting Moslems from the Soviet Union.

2. With reference to your paragraph 4, the information which we have gathered here is the following:-

France. Nasser tackled M. Pineau on the matter, showing him a newspaper cutting which made statements concerning Jewish recruitments in France. Pineau countered with a statement that the duty of every Frenchman was to render his military service to France and that French legislation was opposed to French citizens serving in foreign forces, but from what the French Embassy had told us it does not sound as though he made a very convincing case. The French Embassy profess to believe that apart from a few instructors going on contract and some Jews immigrating, there is no recruitment going on in France. On the other hand, a private casual source tells us that the Jews have quite a lively organisation for this purpose in France.

Italy. On reading a newspaper gloss on the communique of the Tripartite Conference here of March 12, which contained a reference to Italy, the Italian Embassy tackled the Director General of Information here and asked him on what evidence Italy had been mentioned. Colonel Hatem said that they had no evidence and the Italian Embassy have therefore done no more about it. We have drawn their attention to the implications of the matter and they have said that they will communicate with Rome about it.

South Africa. The South African Charge d'Affaires here acknowledges that Zionist activity in South Africa is particularly intense and that lively and practical support for Zionism proceeds from the Jewish community there. He says there is quite a lively traffic of visitors, businessmen and immigrants between South Africa and Israel, but he does not think that recruitment as such is going ahead. He too has undertaken to draw his Government's attention to the implications of the question. He has remarked incidentally that South Africa was also engaged on the Arab side in that there was one South African colonel in the Arab Legion.

Canada and Australia. The Canadian Ambassador and the Australian Minister had no information and did not believe the question could intimately concern their countries, though they are calling their Governments'

/attention...

E.M. Rose, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Levant Department,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S.W.1.



1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	Ins	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774			86455			
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet						



- 2 -

attention to it.

Argentina. The new Argentine Ambassador has stated to a colleague that he has sent in a note to the Egyptian Government denying that Argentina is furnishing recruits. He apparently acknowledges in conversation that the Jewish community in the Argentine is one of the biggest in the world and that Zionist organisations there are very active. We will find occasion to make him also aware that Nasser may be seeking a pretext or an excuse for engaging Soviet Moslem citizens.

3. We will continue our researches and let you know anything more we ascertain.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Buenos Aires, Paris and Rome, and enclose three additional copies which you may wish to pass to the Commonwealth Relations Office.

*F.R.H. Murray*

(F.R.H. MURRAY)

(1032/35/56)  
CONFIDENTIAL



*Amman*  
British Embassy,  
AMMAN,  
April 18, 1956. ✓

*R1091/124*

*Dear Michael,*

The Manager of ~~the~~ Arab Airways called to see me on April 14 to discuss the attempted interception of one of his Company's planes by Israel fighter aircraft on April 12 (c.f. Jerusalem telegram No. 137 of April 13)

2. Pusey did not have much to add to the account of the incident given in the telegram under reference. He did, however, say that the pilot of the Arab Airways aircraft was very sceptical about the passenger's claim to have seen a burst of fire from one of the Israel fighters since the fighter and the passenger plane were flying on parallel courses at the time in question.

3. Pusey had been to see the Jordanian Minister of Communications about the incident and had suggested to him that the Jordanian complaint to the Mixed Armistice Commission might be reinforced by a protest to the International Civil Aviation Organization. He had also suggested to the Minister that the Jordan Government should consider the advisability of allowing Egyptian-controlled Fedayeen to be transported in unescorted civil aircraft. An aircraft of Misrair had left Amman on the evening the incident took place, carrying a party of Fedayeen dressed in civilian clothes, together with a coffin covered with the Jordanian flag which was said to contain the body of a member of the group but which more probably contained all or some of the group's military equipment. It is possible that the aim behind the Arab Airways incident was the interception of a plane which the Israel authorities believed to be carrying Fedayeen back to Egypt, with the idea of forcing it to land in Israel.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to the Chanceries at Tel Aviv, Cairo, POMEF and the Consulate-General at Jerusalem.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Harry Dudgeon*

( H.A. Dudgeon )

R.M. Hadow, Esq.,  
Levant Department,  
The Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S.W. 1.

FROM TEL AVIV TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND WHITEHALL

DISTRIBUTION

W R1091/125

Sir J. Nicholls

No. 217

D:4.12 p.m. May 2, 1956

May 2, 1956

R:6.12 p.m. May 2, 1956

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 217 of  
May 2

repeated for information to:

Cairo          Amman          Jerusalem

and Saving to:

Damascus  
Beirut  
Bagdad  
Ankara  
P.O.M.E.F.  
Paris  
(U.K.DEL.) New York  
Washington.

Incidents Israel-Egypt.

According to press reports a KIM aircraft on charter to Egypt for aerial survey work was intercepted over the Negev yesterday and forced to land at Lydda. Crew was said to consist of five KIM employees, all Dutch, and one member of the Egyptian Air Force.

Foreign Office pass saving to Damascus, Beirut, Bagdad, Ankara, P.O.M.E.F., Paris, (U.K.DEL.) New York and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 25, 29, 23, 16, 29, 33, 24 and 42.

[Repeated saving to Damascus, Beirut, Bagdad, Ankara, P.O.M.E.F., Paris, (U.K.DEL.) New York and Washington].

R1091/25 'A'

THE TIMES  
- 2 MAY 1956

Enter  
J  
95

Clipping dated

**PHOTOGRAPHIC DUTIES  
OF K.L.M. DAKOTA**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

THE HAGUE, MAY 1

K.L.M. (Royal Dutch Airlines) confirmed to-day that the aircraft which had been forced to land by Israel fighters was a photographic Dakota belonging to the K.L.M. Aerocarrio company. The Dakota had been engaged since September, 1955, in cartographic work on behalf of the Egyptian Government, it was stated. Its duties were connected with projects for land improvement and irrigation in an area extending from the Mediterranean to the frontier with the Sudan. The Sinai Peninsula was also being mapped.

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO		371/121774			86455		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

CONFIDENTIAL

Jerusalem telegram No. 134 to Foreign Office

-2-

Foreign Office please pass Immediate to Cairo and UKDel New York and Priority to POMEF and Washington and Saving to Paris as my telegrams Nos. 60, 20, 55, 23 and 20 respectively.

[Repeated to Cairo, UKDel New York, POMEF, Washington and Saving to Paris.]

ADVANCE COPIES

Sir L. Kirkpatrick  
Private Secretary  
Mr. Shuckburgh  
Head of Levant Department  
Resident Clerk

DDD

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	Ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO		371/121774			86455		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

VR1091/103

DEPARTMENTAL  
DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Wikeley  
No. 135  
April 11, 1956

D.1. 07 p.m. April 11, 1956  
R.1. 51 p.m. April 11, 1956

PRIORITY  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 135 of April 11  
Repeated for information to:- Amman Tel Aviv  
Cairo P.O.M.E.F.

Amman telegram No. 581: Fedayeen.

A member of my staff yesterday saw in (Jordan) Jerusalem a bus carrying a number of passengers in khaki uniforms and he was told that they were Egyptian Fedayeen. He was subsequently told that they left by air yesterday from Jerusalem for Egypt and that my Egyptian colleague was present at the airport when they left.

2. I have passed this information in confidence to Mehafez who knew nothing about it but has promised to make enquiries. I said to him that if the information was confirmed, it would be very serious for Jordan; the Israelis would soon [?grp. omitted] of it and could be expected to react strongly against the use of Jordan as a staging post for Fedayeen. He agreed.

Foreign Office pass Priority to Cairo and Routine to Tel Aviv and POMEF as my telegrams Nos. 61,70 and 56.

[Repeated to Cairo, Tel Aviv and POMEF]

DISTRIBUTED TO:-  
Levant Department  
Eastern Department  
African Department  
News Department  
: : : : :

SECRET  
FROM AMMAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL  
DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Duke

No. 590

April 11, 1956

D. 4.49 p.m. April 11, 1956

E. 5.13 p.m. April 11, 1956

VR1091/104

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 590 of April 11.

Repeated for information Tel Aviv, Cairo, P.O.M.E.F. and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 386 to Tel Aviv.

I am reliably informed that Fedayeen concerned (my telegram 581 to you) who were seven in number and had been engaged on attacks on Faluja road (Tel Aviv telegram 162 to you) were put back across Jordan - Israel border on the night of April 9.

2. Jordanians put them back not (repeat not) for the purpose of causing further incidents in Israel, but because they were unwilling to offend the Egyptians by sentencing the men to imprisonment. At the same time, however, the Legion has addressed a protest to the Egyptians requesting that in future Fedayeen should not be sent into Jordan.

3. I see no objection to Her Majesty's Ambassador, Tel Aviv informing the Israelis of paragraphs 1 and 2 above without quoting source, at the same time stressing that action of the Jordanians implies no change in their policy of preventing infiltration from Jordan.

Foreign Office pass P.O.M.E.F. 276, Cairo 205, Jerusalem 64.

[Repeated to P.O.M.E.F. Cairo and Jerusalem]

DISTRIBUTED TO:

Levant Department  
African Department  
Eastern Department  
News Department

ADVANCE COPIES:

Sir. I. Kirkpatrick  
Private Secretary  
Mr. Shuckburgh  
Head of Levant Department  
Resident Clerk



1956

V  
 LEVANT DEPARTMENT  
 CIVIL

VR 1091/105

FROM Sir H. Trevelyan  
 Cairo  
 No. 672  
 Dated April 11  
 Received in Registry— April 12.

Israel - Egypt.  
 Sets out the sequence of events, as outlined by General Burns.  
 Nasser admits sending the commandos in to cause as many casualties as were inflicted at Gaza.  
 Mr. Hammarshjöld has told Nasser that he cannot negotiate until a cease-fire is observed

References to former relevant papers

MINUTES

(Print)

"Retaliation against the commandos" in para 1 (c) presumably means reprisal which is retaliation for the felayeen attacks.

(How disposed of)

Copy Ankara, Beirut. 12/4

1) Ankara 92  
 Beirut 88 12/4

~~A/B/B/C Monitoring April 11.~~

Fed. Amman 732  
 April 11  
 Reported as within

(Action completed) (Index)

13/4

References to later relevant papers



CONFIDENTIAL

R1091/105

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir H. Trevelyan  
No. 672  
April 11, 1956.

D. 9. 30 p. m. April 11, 1956.  
R. 10. 13 p. m. April 11, 1956.

IMMEDIATE  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 672 of April 11

Repeated for information to Washington	U. K. DEL New York
Tel Aviv	Jerusalem
P. O. M. E. F.	Paris
Amman	Damascus
And Saving to Bagdad	Jedda

Egypt-Israel.

General Burns has told me the following. Although he has not yet had full reports, he believes the sequence of events to have been as follows:

- (a) shooting by Egyptians on Israeli patrol;
- (b) shelling of Egyptian villages by Israeli 25-pounders in order to extricate the patrol;
- (c) retaliatory shelling by Egyptians of Israeli Kibbutz;
- (d) retaliatory mortar fire by Israelis on Gaza, where there were no (repeat no) Egyptian gun positions;
- (e) despatch of Egyptian commandos in retaliation for Gaza casualties. Burns made the strongest representations to the Israeli Government to prevent retaliating against the commandos, pointing out the disparity in the casualties caused, and has reason to believe that these were successful.

2. Nasser admitted to my American colleague that he had ordered the commandos in with the general plan that they should cause as many casualties as the Israelis had caused in Gaza. After Byroade's second interview in which, under instructions, he emphasised the strong support by the United States Government of Hammarskjöld's mission, he was more confident that Nasser would try and extricate himself from the present position. Nasser was, however, concerned not to agree to a cease-fire while commandos were still in Israel and liable to cause incidents, which would be a breach of the cease-fire. He thought that they would probably all be out by today.

3. Hammarskjöld has told the Egyptians that he cannot negotiate unless the present situation is cleared up and the Egyptians will promise to observe Article 2(ii) of the Armistice Agreement and see that firing is stopped on the border. He told them of Ben Gurion's undertaking  
/to suspend

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774						86455	
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

CONFIDENTIAL

Cairo telegram No. 672 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

VR 1001/79

to suspend border patrols (Jerusalem telegram No. 118), though he admitted to me that this was subject to various reservations. Nasser did not explicitly either admit that he had sent commando troops into Israel, nor explicitly agree that he would liquidate this operation, but he implied that he would do this and Hammarskjöld was reasonably satisfied with his response. He has done no more than have preliminary discussions on the articles of the Armistice Agreement which are in question. On this visit he is mainly concerned with trying to obtain a more direct statement of Egyptian agreement to observe Article 2(ii) which he can then take to the Israelis. He proposes to leave Cairo on Friday morning for Beirut and to go to Israel after a few days, returning to Cairo next week. Burns thinks that they can now get over the present situation.

Foreign Office please pass Immediate to Washington, U.K. Del. New York, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and routine to Paris as my telegrams Nos. 18, 14, 44, 43 and 12 respectively.

[Repeated to Washington, U.K. Del. New York, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Paris].

ADVANCE COPIES  
Private Secretary  
Sir L. Kirkpatrick  
Mr. Shuckburgh  
Head of Levant Department  
Head of African Department

B. E.

**V**  
LEVANT DEPARTMENT

VR 1091/107

FROM Sir J. Nicholls  
Tel Aviv

Fedayeen

The latest outrages have been caused by a new batch of infiltrators. As a result of these brutal murders, there is bound to be strong pressure for retaliation. Suggests a message of sympathy from the House of Commons would have a good effect.

No. 180  
Dated April 12  
Received in Registry April 12

References to former relevant papers

MINUTES

We must look out for the Cairo radio broadcast in the monitoring reports.

A minute and reply to this telegram have been submitted separately.

Copy Ankara.

R. 12/4

(Print)

(How disposed of)

- C) Ankara 17/4
- P.W. 6'
- C) Amman
- Bagdad
- Beirut
- Cairo
- Damascus 19/4
- Jerusalem
- Paris
- P.O.M.G.F.
- Tel Aviv
- New York Del
- Washington

A) B. B. C. Monitoring

April 11.

R. 18/4

(Action completed) (Index)

*[Handwritten initials]* 16/4 *[Handwritten initials]*

B) F. O. Minute (Mrs Rose)

April 12

R. 19/4

References to later relevant papers

C) B. B. C. Monitoring

April 14.

R. 20/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No.

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~  
 Confidential.  
~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~

*R*  
*14/4*

Draft.

Telegram to:

TEL AVIV

No. ....

(Date) .....

And to:—

Repeat to:—  
 AMMAN,  
 CAIRO,  
 JERUSALEM  
 P.O.M.E.F.  
 WASHINGTON  
 SAVING to:  
 BAGDAD,  
 BEIRUT  
 DAMASCUS  
 UKDEL NEW YORK  
 PARIS, ANKARA  
~~Ex-Clas.~~  
 Codes  
 Cypher

Distribution:—

Foreign Office  
 and Whitehall

*C. L. B.*

Copies to:—

\* Date and time (G.M.T.) telegram should reach addressee(s).....

~~SECRET~~ }  
 IMMEDIATE }  
~~SECRET~~ }  
~~SECRET~~ }  
 with priority }  
~~SECRET~~ }  
 without }  
~~SECRET~~ }

(Date) .....

Despatched.....

[Security classification]..... CONFIDENTIAL  
 —if any

[Codeword—if any].....

Addressed to..... TEL AVIV.....

telegram No..... (date).....

repeated for information to..AMMAN,..CAIRO,..JERUSALEM,  
 P.O.M.E.F., WASHINGTON...SAVING te:..BAGDAD, BEIRUT  
 DAMASCUS, UKDEL NEW YORK, PARIS, ANKARA.

*Flag A*

Your telegram No.180 [of April 12: Fedayeen].

There is no question down for answer in the House of Commons on the Gaza incidents nor would it be possible to arrange for one to be tabled today. In any case I am not convinced that a statement in the House of Commons would be the best way of conveying to the Israelis a message in the sense you suggest.

2. I think it would be better, if anything is said, for you to say it to the Israeli Foreign Minister. If you think it would be useful you are authorised to give him a message from me in the following sense, *but note for publication.*

3. While H.M.G. deplore the shelling of Gaza which resulted in the senseless killing of a large number of civilians, they equally deplore the Fedayeen attacks against Israel civilians. H.M.G. wish to express their sympathy to the Israeli Government at the loss of life which these attacks have caused. They have *been told to* note with gratification that the Israeli Government have / concentrated

concentrated on <sup>action</sup> ~~hunting down the fedayeen~~  
inside Israeli territory. <sup>wa</sup> ~~They express the~~  
hope that they will continue on this course  
and ~~will~~ not be tempted to indulge in  
reprisals outside Israeli territory, which  
could not fail to make a bad impression on  
opinion in this and other countries.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.



CONFIDENTIAL  
FROM TEL AVIV TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

MR 1091/197

Sir J. Nicholls  
No. 180  
April 12, 1956

D.10.13 a.m. April 12, 1956  
R.10.26 a.m. April 12, 1956

EMERGENCY  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 180 of April 12  
Repeated for information to:-

- |               |        |                |
|---------------|--------|----------------|
|               | Amman  | Jerusalem      |
|               | Cairo  | P.O.M.E.F.     |
|               |        | Washington     |
| and Saving to | Bagdad | Damascus       |
|               | Beirut | UKDEL New York |
|               |        | Paris          |

My telegram No. 179: Fedayeen.

Information quoted came from military source and must have represented very recent assessment by the Israel Defence Force.

2. Very shortly after it was given, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs telephoned to give details of the latest Fedayeen activities and stated that these were the work of a new wave of infiltrators. The same line is taken by today's Press, which of course contrasts this information with alleged official statement by Cairo Radio that all the Fedayeen had been withdrawn, having completed their "mission of revenge".

3. It looks very much as if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' story of despatch of new gangs is for [grp. undec.] up for an act of reprisal. Last night's murders were particularly brutal, and pressure for retaliation will inevitably be strong.

4. An expression of sympathy in the House of Commons today, and a word of admiration for Israel steadiness under great provocation would, I venture to suggest, do more to discourage reprisals than any representation I might make. Simultaneous /condemnation...



1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	Ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO		371/121774			86455		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

CONFIDENTIAL

Tel Aviv telegram No. 180 to Foreign Office

-2-

condemnation of the shelling of Gaza would not be out of place.

Foreign Office pass Priority to Cairo and routine to Washington, POMEF and Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos. 43, 47, 16 and 34 and Saving to Bagdad, Beirut, Damascus, UKDEL New York and Paris as my telegrams Nos. 11, 17, 12, 12 and 21.

[Repeated to Cairo, Washington, POMEF, Jerusalem and Saving to Bagdad, Beirut, Damascus, UKDEL New York and Paris]

ADVANCE COPIES:-

Private Secretary

Sir I. Kirkpatrick

Mr. Shuckburgh

Head of Levant Department

.....

Minutes



✓  
K1091/107 'A'

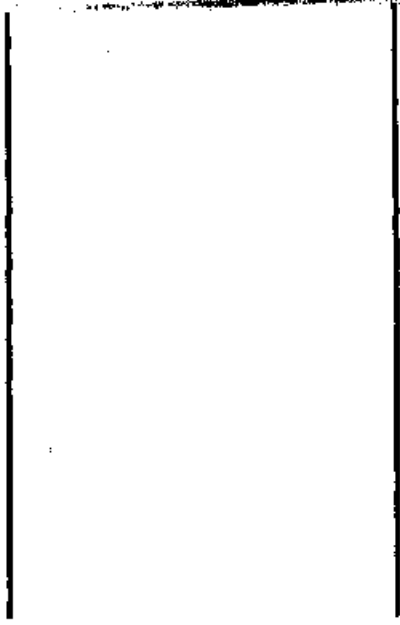
*M. Rose*  
*(1)*  
*R. M.*

645 US. ENVOY ADMIRES ISRAEL'S SPIRIT

(ISRAEL RADIO) THE US AMBASSADOR IN ISRAEL TODAY EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION OF THE COURAGE, HEROISM, AND PATIENCE SHOWN BY ISRAEL IN THE FACE OF TERRORISM AND ATTACKS. THE AMBASSADOR, MR. EDWARD LAWSON, SAID THIS IN A CONGRATULATORY SPEECH ON THE INAUGURATION OF THE BUILDINGS OF BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY.

HE EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS ITS CONDUCT IN CRITICAL TIMES WHICH DISTINGUISHES A GREAT NATION AND THAT ISRAEL'S INHABITANTS HAD PASSED THIS TEST WHEN CONFRONTED WITH CONSTANT TERRORISM AND NIGHTLY ATTACKS BY RAIDERS. LAWSON EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE ENTIRE WORLD WOULD APPRECIATE THE SPIRIT OF THE CONDUCT AND COURAGE SEEN IN ISRAEL IN RECENT DAYS.

END BBC MON 2020 11/4 MAH KY





24

CONFIDENTIAL

✓  
R1091/107 'B'

GAZA INCIDENTS

Flag A

Flag B

*VR1091/107* *VR1091/109*

In his telegram No. 180 of today Sir J. Nicholls reports that the continuation of fedayeen raids inside Israel (see Tel Aviv telegram No. 181) has increased the risk of an act of reprisal by the Israel forces. He suggests that an expression of sympathy in the House of Commons today and a word of admiration for Israel steadiness under great provocation would do more to discourage reprisals than any representation which he might make.

2. I do not think that this suggestion is practicable. There is no question down which could be answered in this sense nor could one be inspired in time. In any case I doubt if a statement in the House of Commons is the best way of conveying our sentiments to the Israel Government. It would furthermore be difficult to explain why we had made no similar statement of sympathy with the Egyptians over the senseless shelling of Gaza by the Israelis on April 5 which resulted in the killing of a large number of civilians.

3. On the other hand, a personal message to the Israel Foreign Minister from the Secretary of State on the general lines suggested by Sir J. Nicholls might have a restraining effect on the Israel Government, and after discussion with Mr. Shuckburgh I submit a draft herewith.

*E.M. Rose*  
(E.M. Rose)  
April 12, 1956

*After further thought I am very doubtful of the wisdom*

wisdom of sending a message to Mr Monette  
at all - unless we send one also to Col. Nares.  
I doubt whether it will have any effect on  
fracti decisions and I think our general principle,  
while Mr Hammersdyke is in the area, should  
be to keep quiet unless he asks us to take action.

C. Stuckburgh  
12/4

I agree with Mr Stuckburgh.

Before 1939 there was a fashion in "gestures".

Now "messages" are in the mode.

But these messages quickly depreciate.

J. Philipps  
12.4.

I agree

W 12/4

14 c *pt*

R1091/107

A

ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY, according to Ahmed Said in the "Voice of the Arabs" programme on the 16th, had been celebrated by "the exchange of toasts of apprehension and fear between Israel's leaders and inhabitants". The two first "toasts" were the speeches of President Ben Zvi and Premier Ben Gurion, and the third was "the flight of the Israelites from the settlements destroyed by the commandos and their invasion of the big towns, where they insist on staying for fear of further commando attacks". By contrast, "Egypt has no wailing ruler who weeps over Egypt's sufferings at the hands of Israeli commandos; yesterday, while Ben Gurion was wailing, Egypt's ruler was telling his officers that they were entitled to feel proud... On the one hand the Arabs, strong, ready for sacrifices, full of self-confidence; on the other the Zionists, terrified and in consternation." There was no doubt who would be the victors.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir J. Gardener

VR1091/108

No. 162  
April 11, 1956.

D. 3.02 p.m. April 11, 1956.  
R. 3.43 p.m. April 11, 1956.

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 162 of April 11.

Repeated for information to: Tel Aviv      Cairo  
Jerusalem      POMEF  
Amman

and Saving to: UKDEL New York      Washington  
Beirut

My telegram No. 147. — VR1091/67

A further incident occurred on the night of April 9/10 in Fiq area when there was a clash between patrols about 3/4 miles inside the Syrian frontier. No casualties. Some Israeli ammunition was found.

2. This patrol activity may be the prelude to an Israeli attack in this area or attempt to discover Syrian preparation, if any, to support Egypt.
3. I am told that General Burns recently sent a message to the Syrian Chief of Staff saying that he understood from Israeli Government that Egyptians intended to order Fedayeen from other Arab countries to operate in Israel. General Burns therefore hoped that Syria would strictly control the frontier. The Syrian Chief of Staff apparently took this rather badly and said he thought the warning would be more appropriate to the Israelis who had so recently raided across the Syrian frontier.
4. I am told that the Fedayeen in countries north of Egypt are controlled from Damascus. I have however no knowledge of their activity.

Foreign Office pass Cairo, Jerusalem and POMEF as my telegrams 1, 20 and 52 and Saving UKDEL New York, Washington and Beirut as my telegrams 10, 36 and 38 respectively.

(Repeated to Cairo, Jerusalem and POMEF and Saving to UKDEL New York, Washington and Beirut).

Q Q Q Q

FROM TEL AVIV TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir J. Nicholls

R109/109

No. 181  
April 12, 1956.

D. 11.14 a.m. April 12, 1956.  
R. 11.35 a.m. April 12, 1956.

IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 181 of April 12.

Repeated for information to Amman	Cairo
Damascus	Jerusalem
P.O.M.E.F.	
and Saving to Ankara	Bagdad
Beirut	New York (UKDel)
Paris	Washington.

My telegram No. 180: Incidents.

A full account of last night's incidents is not yet available, but known major incidents were as follows:-

- (a) Congregation in the synagogue at the Agricultural School at Shafrir near Tel Aviv attacked. Three boys killed. Five boys and one instructor wounded.
- (b) Two buses on the Tel Aviv-Ramle road fired on. Six passengers wounded.
- (c) House in Moshav Ahisamech near Tel Aviv attacked by grenades. Three occupants wounded.

Foreign Office pass Saving to Ankara, Bagdad, Beirut, New York (UKDel), Paris and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 6, 12, 18, 13, 22 and 33 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Ankara, Bagdad, Beirut, New York (UKDel), Paris and Washington]

ADVANCE COPIES:-

Private Secretary  
Sir I. Kirkpatrick  
Mr. Shuckburgh  
Head of Levant Department  
Head of News Department

SSSSS

<p>7950</p>	<p>ISRAEL</p>	<p>VR1091/G 114</p>
<p>FROM Sir J. Nicholls TEL Aviv</p> <p>No. 188</p> <p>Dated April 13</p> <p>Received in Registry April 13</p>	<p><u>FEDAYEEN</u></p> <p>Question of warning the Jordan Government that it is dangerous to use Jordan as a staging base for Fedayeen.</p>	
<p>REFERENCES</p> <p>VR1091/103 118</p>	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>Gen. Burns has already asked the Arab Legion to prevent Fedayeen infiltration and the Legion have confirmed that this is their policy (Amman telegram no 560). The Legion have also protested to the Egyptians against the arrival of Fedayeen in Jordan, and Mr. Wikeley has drawn the attention of the Mchafiz to the danger of Israeli reaction against the use of Jerusalem as a staging post for Fedayeen, who agreed (Amman telegram no. 590 and Jerusalem telegram no 185). I incline to think that in these circumstances further representations from us would not be productive. Mr. Rucke will readily take action unless instructed. Per</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p> <p>Tel Amman no 769 April 14</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>Q 14/4</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>[Signature]</p>	
<p>38111</p>		

if you think we ought to show a little more  
 willing to do J. Nicholls' suggestion I attach  
 the sort of draft telegram which I think  
 is the best we should send.

R. Lamont

I agree, though I would have  
 thought the same effect could be  
 produced by sending no telegram  
 from here at all.

R. Williams  
 13/4

lets do nothing.

C. L. R.

Tel. dep. 13/4

M 13/4

Number of copies .....  
 Number of papers .....

SECRET

FROM TEL AVIV TO FOREIGN OFFICE

*Handwritten:* 114  
VR1091

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL  
DISTRIBUTION

Sir J. Nicholls  
No. 188  
April 13, 1956

D: 10.25 a.m. April 13, 1956  
R: 10.47 a.m. April 13, 1956

PRIORITY  
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 188 of April 13.

Repeated for information to Amman Caire  
Jerusalem P.O.M.E.F.  
VR1091/103  
Jerusalem telegram No. 135 to you: Fedayeen.

Since this information confirms earlier information and since this behaviour cannot fail to come to the ears of the Israel Government (please see for instance paragraph 3 of my telegram No. 186), you may consider it advisable to warn the Jordan Government that they are playing with fire. VR1091/113

Foreign Office pass to Caire, Jerusalem and P.O.M.E.F. as by telegrams Nos. 49, 39 and 66.

[Repeated to Caire, Jerusalem and P.O.M.E.F.]

DISTRIBUTED TO  
Levant Department  
African Department  
Eastern Department

lllll



FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

R1091/78

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Wikeley

No. 117  
April 7, 1956.

D. 10.35 a.m. April 7, 1956.  
R. 11.56 a.m. April 7, 1956.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 117 of April 7.

Repeated for information to:

Amman	Damascus
Bagdad	Beirut
Cairo	UKDEL New York
Paris	POMEF
Washington	Tel Aviv.

My telegram No. 111: Israel-Egypt. — VR1091/64

Following is text of statement issued by HQ UNTSO yesterday.

Begins.

The following provisional tabulation of dead and wounded, as of noon April 6, of the incidents of April 5 in the Gaza areas has been made by the United Nations observers of the Egyptian-Israeli Mixed Armistice Commission.

- (a) Egyptian side, civilians 55 dead (men 30, women 15, children 10) 102 wounded (men 56, women 33, children 13).
- (b) Israeli side, 4 civilians and 2 military wounded.

The figures on the Egyptian side include casualties from the Gaza town and villages to the south of Gaza.

Ends.

Foreign Office please pass to UKDEL New York and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 16 and 19 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to UKDEL New York and Washington].

Q Q Q Q



CONFIDENTIAL

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTF

R1091/79

FOREIGN OFFICE AND WHITEHALL  
DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Wikeley  
No. 118  
April 7, 1956

D: 10.23 a.m. April 7, 1956  
R: 11.11 a.m. April 7, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 118 of April 7.  
Repeated for information to Cairo, P.O.M.E.F. and Tel Aviv.

My telegram No. 114: Israel-Egypt. - VR1001/68

I learn from Burns that he told Ben Gurion yesterday that to continue sending Israel patrols along the border could only result in dangerously increased tension and further incidents.

2. To Burns's surprise, Ben Gurion, after maintaining Israel's right to patrol and insisting that Egyptian troops must be ordered not to open fire, agreed to suspend patrols for the time being.

Foreign Office pass to Cairo and P.O.M.E.F. as my telegrams Nos. 49 and 45 respectively.

[Repeated to Cairo and P.O.M.E.F.]

lllll

FOR  
17  
1956

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	Ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO		371/121774			86455		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair  
Mr. Wikeley

R 1091/80

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

No. 120  
April 8, 1956.

D. 8.55 a.m. April 8, 1956.  
R. 9.22 a.m. April 8, 1956.

IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 120 of April 8.

Repeated for information to:

Cairo	Tel Aviv
UKDEL New York	POMEF
Washington	Paris
Beirut	Damascus
Amman	Bagdad

UNTSO was informed by Israel authorities late last night, that a number of acts of sabotage and attacks against vehicles had been carried out yesterday in the area between Beersheba and the Gaza Strip by Egyptian Fedayeen.

2. UNTSO has been notified of seven attacks against vehicles, a water installation at Migdal was blown up and a hand grenade was thrown into a house in Ashkelon. So far two fatal Israel civilian casualties have been reported and a number of persons have been injured. United Nations observers are investigating.

3. General Burns has cancelled his journey to Rome arranged for today (to meet the Secretary-General). He has asked for an immediate interview with Israel Prime Minister and he has sent urgent appeal to the Egyptian Government to order cessation of Fedayeen attacks.

Foreign Office please pass Immediate to UKDEL New York and Priority to Washington as my telegrams Nos. 17 and 20 respectively.  
[Repeated to UKDEL New York and Washington.]

ADVANCE COPIES:-

Sir I. Kirkpatrick  
Private Secretary  
Mr. Shuckburgh  
Head of Levant Department  
Head of News Department  
Resident Clerk

Q Q Q Q

Bag 12/4

+ 5 @ below

1/6  
12/4

Registry  
 No. VR1091/80

Top Secret.  
 Secret.  
 Confidential  
 Restricted.  
 Open.

CM

Draft letter to:  
 Chancery,  
 Cairo.

From:  
 Levant Dept.

Copies to:  
 Chanceries,  
 Amman,  
 Tel Aviv,  
 Beirut,  
 Damascus,  
 Pomeh.

A - B of attached  
 typed file

Dear Chancery,

Would you please refer to our correspondence of last year resting with our letter (VR 1092/409) of December 16 (not copied to all) about "Voice of the Arabs" broadcasts on Fedayeen activities against Israel.

2. We said that we had asked the B.B.C. monitoring service to keep an ear open for any future items on this subject. There ~~have~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~been~~ none for some time, but they have started again following the recent flare up along the Gaza border and the ~~recurrence~~ <sup>renewance</sup> of Fedayeen activity. We enclose herein a copy of the monitored text of a broadcast of April 9, and shall send you further items as and when we receive them.

3. We are sending copies of this letter and enclosure to Amman, Tel Aviv, Beirut, Damascus and ~~Romath~~ <sup>POHEF</sup>

Yours ever,  
 LEVANT DEPARTMENT.

D.  
11/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

COPI

(VR 1091/80)

Egyptian Commandos can reach the heart of Israel:

"Voice of the Arabs"

Cairo radio's "Voice of the Arabs"

News bulletin this evening (April 9) was interrupted after its first item for "an important item". This said, in part, that the Israelis were surprised by the operations of the Egyptian Commandos, in view of the precautions taken since last August, when Commandos had entered the heart of Israel. The responsible persons in Israel had assured their Premier that all precautions had been taken and that no Egyptian Commando would be able to enter Israel. "As a result of this assurance, Israel believed that she could injure the Arabs by firing from the Truce Lines when the Arabs could not retaliate. Israel has evacuated the colonies near the Egyptian Truce Line, for a few individuals to defend them. This is why Israel guns caused casualties in the Gaza sector when the Israelis believed they were out of range of the Egyptian Forces".

"The incidents by the Egyptian Commandos on Saturday disturbed Israel's confidence. Forty-eight hours after Israel had shelled Gaza, the Egyptian Commandos were in Magdal firing their guns. This surprise paralysed the Israelis. The Commandos were able to fire their guns and throw hand-grenades in the city centre. The Commandos left the city on fire. This incident means that the war does not now only include firing or border raids but reaches the heart of Israel and places which they thought out of reach. The continuous incidents made Israel realise that there were a great number of Commandos inside her territory".

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	Ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774			86455				
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

COPY

(VR 1091/80)

(Cairo Radio Home Service - April 10) Reports from Jerusalem say that the Israelis have been amazed at the activities of the Commandos following the precautions taken since last August when Commandos penetrated into the very heart of Israel. Responsible officials had reassured the Israeli Premier that all precautions had been taken and that no Commando could possibly enter Israel. On the strength of these reassurances, Israel believed that it could harm the Arabs by firing across the Armistice Lines, and that it could inflict heavy losses upon the Arabs while the Arabs could not inflict any harm whatever upon Israel.

Israel evacuated settlements bordering on the Egyptian Armistice Lines. Only a very few individuals have been left in these settlements to defend them. This is the reason why Israeli shells inflicted losses upon the Gaza sector while Egyptian batteries could not inflict any heavy losses upon Israel. The Israelis used to believe that they were out of reach of the Arab Forces. They also used to think that the entry of any military forces into Israel would cause the big powers to intervene. This they believed would protect Israel from harm. Last Saturday's activities of the Commandos put an end to the feeling of security which Israel enjoyed.

Reports about these activities spread all over Israel the following morning. The Israelis realized that such incidents would henceforth not be confined to the border area but would be brought to their very doorstep. Nitsanim is only 20 miles south of Tel Aviv. Israel has been overwhelmed with disturbing reports about Commando activities.

News Agency reports from Jerusalem say that it is quite noticeable that the Israeli spokesman endeavours to suppress news about losses caused by the raids. It is obvious that the Israeli spokesman is suppressing the truth about these raids in order to put a damper on the fear and alarm which has been felt by the Israelis in all their towns and villages.

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774			86455				
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

CONFIDENTIAL

VR 1091/81

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Wikeley

No. 121.

April 8, 1956.

D. 12.34 p.m. April 8, 1956.

R. 12.50 p.m. April 8, 1956.

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 121 of April 8.

Repeated for information to: Cairo Tel Aviv  
U.K. Del. New York  
P.O.M.E.F.  
Washington  
and Saving to: Paris.

My telegram No. 120.

General Burns is to see the Israel Prime Minister at 1600 hours local time today. He had hoped to see him before meeting of Israel Cabinet which started this morning. In order to try to stave off the possible decision to order further retaliation he sent to the Israel Prime Minister at 1000 hours a letter saying he has despatched urgent message to the Egyptian Government protesting against fedayeen activities and requesting immediate recall of any persons under Egyptian control now in Israel territory. He strongly urges Israel to refrain from any attempt at reprisal, and he contrasts the smallness of Israeli casualties caused to date by the Fedayeen with the great loss of life at Gaza.

2. In a letter to the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs Burns has informed him of the fedayeen attacks, and has pointed out that these follow his message of a few days ago saying that the Israelis had information that such attacks were contemplated, and calling for an Egyptian assurance that this was not the case. As the Egyptians have not replied, Burns considers it possible that some or all of the recent attacks have been carried out by persons acting under Egyptian orders. If this is the case, it is a violation not only of the Armistice Agreement and cease-fire arranged on April 6, but also of the laws of war prohibiting attacks on civilians. The continuation of attacks will render Egypt liable to

/condemnation

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO		371/121774			86455		
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

CONFIDENTIAL

Jerusalem telegram No. 121 to Foreign Office

-2-

condemnation as an aggressor should further hostilities develop, irrespective of the responsibility for events of April 5 including the mortaring of Gaza with its deplorable loss of life.

3. General Burns has informed the Egyptians of his appeal to the Israelis to refrain from retaliation.

Foreign Office pass immediate to Cairo and U.K. Del. New York and Priority to P.O.M.E.F. and Washington and Saving to Paris as my telegrams Nos. 52, 18, 48, 21 and 15 respectively.

[Repeated to Cairo, U.K. Del. New York, P.O.M.E.F. and Washington and Saving to Paris.]

ADVANCE COPIES

Private Secretary  
Sir I. Kirkpatrick  
Mr. Shuckburgh  
Head of Levant Department  
Head of News Department  
Resident Clerk.

TTTTT



CONFIDENTIAL

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Wikeley

D. 6.25 p.m. April 8, 1956.

No. 122.

R. 6.38 p.m. April 8, 1956.

April 8, 1956.

IMMEDIATE

VR 1091/82

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 122 of April 8.

Repeated for information to: Cairo Tel Aviv  
U.K. Del. New York P.O.M.E.F. Washington  
and Saving to: Paris. ✓

My telegram No. 121: Egypt-Israel.

General Burns saw the Israeli Prime Minister as arranged.

Burns said that if investigation confirmed that the Fedayeen were acting under Egyptian orders, that would place Egypt in the position of an aggressor. He urged nevertheless that Israel should take no reprisal action. The Israeli Prime Minister asked Burns to obtain from the Egyptian Prime Minister unconditional undertaking to observe in its entirety Article 2 paragraph 2 of the Armistice Agreement. Mr. Ben Gurion said he would wait until noon local time on Tuesday April 10, but if there was no reply from Egypt by then, he reserved his liberty of action. Burns says that Ben Gurion was in a reasonable mood.

2. Burns has sent urgent message to the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs enquiring whether Egypt is prepared to give the undertaking to observe unconditionally and in its entirety Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Armistice Agreement. He has told the Egyptians that the Israelis are prepared to do this, if Egyptian answer is in the affirmative, he has asked that orders to ensure compliance should be put into effect as soon as possible, but in any case by noon on April 10.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Cairo and U.K. Del. New York and priority to P.O.M.E.F. and Washington and Saving to Paris as my telegrams Nos. 53, 19, 49, 22 and 16.

[Repeated to Cairo, U.K. Del. New York, P.O.M.E.F. Washington and Saving to Paris].

ADVANCE COPIES

Private Secretary  
Mr. Shuckburgh  
Head of News Department

Sir I. Kirkpatrick  
Head of Levant Department  
Resident Clerk

9 APR 1956  
XVII  
TTTTT

FROM TEL AVIV TO FOREIGN OFFICE V

En Clair

R1091/812 'A'

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir J. Nicholls

No. 171

D. 1.00 p.m. April 9, 1956

April 9, 1956

R. 1.54 p.m. April 9, 1956

PRIORITY

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 171 of April 9.

Repeated for information to: Cairo Jerusalem  
P.O.M.E.F. Washington UKDEL New York  
And Saving to: Paris

According to the Press the meeting between General Burns and Mr. Ben Gurion, foreshadowed in Jerusalem telegram No. 121 to you, duly took place.

An account of the conversation is carried by all papers in similar forms. General Burns is said to have declared that if the investigation of the Fedayeen attacks confirmed that they had been ordered by the Egyptian authorities, Egypt would be placing herself in the position of an aggressor. General Burns at the same time expressed the hope that Israel would nevertheless refrain from counter action against Egypt. Mr. Ben Gurion is said to have told General Burns that Israel must reserve its freedom of action unless a categorical assurance were forthcoming from the Egyptian Government that it would refrain from further hostile acts.

Foreign Office pass to Washington and UKDEL New York as my telegrams Nos. 41 and 17 and to Paris as my Saving telegram No. 19.

[Repeated Saving to Washington, UKDEL New York and Paris].

7777777

Copy  
Ankara  
Bagdad  
Beirut  
Damascus  
Amman

12.10.56

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

En Clair

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Sir H. Trevelyan  
No. 650  
April 7, 1956.

D. 12.8 p.m. April 7, 1956.  
R. 12.45 p.m. April 7, 1956.

VR 1091/84

PRIORITY

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 650 of April 7.

Repeated for information to: Tel Aviv Amman  
and Saving to Washington U.K. Del. New York  
P.O.M.E.F. ✓ P/1091/74

Tel Aviv telegram No. 159 to you.

Akhbar el Yom today reported that late last night Burns received urgent message from the Israel Foreign Minister reporting information that Egypt intended sending commando groups into Israel. He asked Burns to obtain assurance from the Egyptian Government that this would not happen and that cease-fire would also apply to commando activities inside Israel territory. Burns had referred this message to the Egyptian authorities who refused to answer it.

Foreign Office please pass Saving to Washington and U.K. Del. New York as my telegrams 122 and 18 respectively.

[Repeated Saving to Washington and New York].

DISTRIBUTED TO:

Levant Department  
African Department  
Eastern Department  
News Department.

TTTTT



1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774			86455				
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir H. Trevelyan

VR 1091/85

No. 651  
April 8, 1956.

D. 7.51 p.m. April 8, 1956.  
R. 8.25 p.m. April 8, 1956.

IMMEDIATE  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 651 of April 8.  
Repeated for information to Jerusalem Tel Aviv  
New York (UKDel) P.O.M.E.F.  
Washington  
and Saving to Paris. VR 109

Jerusalem telegram No. 121 to you: Gaza.

A reliable Egyptian source told the Americans today that persons from Gaza were operating inside Israel, but claimed they were not trained commandos but Palestine refugees, infuriated by the casualties in Gaza, who demanded to go into Israel. He said that the Egyptian authorities could only have stopped them by shooting them.

2. The same source said that both sides were bringing up heavy weapons, but did not specify what. He also said that according to their information the Israelis were mobilizing.

Foreign Office please pass (Immediate) to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv (Routine) New York and Washington and Saving to Paris as my telegrams Nos. 40, 42, 11, 77 and 76 respectively.

[Repeated to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, New York, Washington and Saving to Paris]

ADVANCE COPIES:-

Private Secretary  
Sir I. Kirkpatrick  
Mr. Shuckburgh  
Head of Levant Department  
Resident Clerk

SSSSS

1	2	cms	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	ins	1	1	2
Ref: FO 371/121774			86455				
Please note that this copy is supplied subject to the Public Record Office's terms and conditions and that your use of it may be subject to copyright restrictions. Further information is given in the enclosed 'Terms and Conditions of supply of Public Records' leaflet							

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

R1091/818

Mr. Wikeley

No. 123  
April 9, 1956

D. 8.58 a.m. April 9, 1956

R. 9.52 a.m. April 9, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 123 of April 9.  
Repeated for information to Amman, Tel Aviv, Cairo, P.O.M.E.F.

and Saving to Beirut  
Damascus  
Bagdad.

The Times correspondent in the New City has been told, off the record, by the Secretary General of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Israel Government have information to the effect that the Egyptian fedayeen have been sent into Jordan whence they are to set out on raids in due course.

2. Israelis understand that the Jordan Government are trying to prevent this abuse of their territory, but are handicapped by pro-Egyptian elements in the Legion.

Foreign Office pass Tel Aviv, Cairo and P.O.M.E.F. and Saving to Beirut, Damascus and Bagdad as my telegrams 65, 54, 50, 6, 2 and 3 respectively.

[Repeated to Tel Aviv, Cairo, P.O.M.E.F. and Saving to Beirut, Damascus and Bagdad]

ZZZZ

48

INDEXED  
R1091/93 '8'

1091/93


GAZA INCIDENTS

Tel Aviv tel.  
176 - Flag A

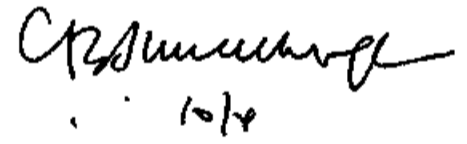
Flag B

Sir J. Nicholls has asked whether he can pass to the Israelis in confidence the report in Amman telegram No. 581 that five Egyptian fedayeen were arrested by Jordanian police during the night of April 8/9 after having crossed the demarcation line into Jordan south of Hebron.

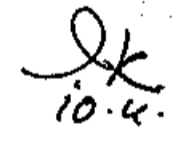
2. Provided Mr. Duke sees no objection I think it would be useful if Sir J. Nicholls did this. I submit a draft accordingly.



(E.M. Rose)  
April 10, 1956.



10/4



JK  
10.4.

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir J. Gardener  
No. 156  
April 9, 1956

D: 6.05 p.m. April 9, 1956  
R: 7.05 p.m. April 9, 1956

PRIORITY  
CONFIDENTIAL

R 1091/93

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 156 of April 9.  
Repeated for information Saving to Cairo

Amman  
Beirut  
Jerusalem  
UKDel New York  
Washington  
Tel Aviv  
P.O.M.E.F.

The Syrian reaction to the Gaza incidents last week has been prompt and outspoken.

2. Demonstrations by refugees mourning the Arabs killed in Gaza took place yesterday in Damascus. These were silent and well controlled.
3. Inflammatory statements have been made to the Press by prominent politicians, including the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Education.
4. A series of meetings have been held over the weekend to discuss the situation, including one of the Syrian-Egyptian Joint Command and one of the acting Prime Minister with the Minister of Defence. I do not know what was decided at these meetings, but it was announced in the Press that after the last the Minister of Defence asked the Egyptian Ambassador to convey to his Government the formal assurance of Syria's readiness to come to Egypt's aid immediately.

Foreign Office pass Saving to Tel Aviv, UKDel New York and Washington as my telegrams Nos. 9, 9 and 34.

[Repeated Saving to Tel Aviv, UKDel New York and Washington].

4444

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM TEL AVIV TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir J. Nicholls

R1091/95

No. 168  
April 9, 1956

D. 1.16 p.m. April 9, 1956  
R. 2.17 p.m. April 9, 1956

PRIORITY  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 168 of April 9.  
Repeated for information to Amman

	Cairo	Damascus
	Bagdad	Jerusalem
	Beirut	POMEF
and Saving to	UKDel New York	
	Washington	

Gaza Incident.

The atmosphere here is very different from that at the time of the earlier troubles on this border. I have very clear impression, borne out by the manner of Press presentation and conversations with officials, that Israel was not, on this occasion, looking for trouble and would have been glad to avoid it. Egyptian civilian casualties are genuinely regretted and they are not, we consider, of [grps. undec].

2. I do not say that there is no risk of reprisals, but I am pretty confident that the Government will exercise as much restraint as can be reasonably expected of them.

Foreign Office please pass Cairo priority Jerusalem and POMEF as my telegrams Nos. 34, 26, 51 and UKDel New York and Washington as my telegrams Saving 10 and 32 respectively.

[Repeated to Cairo, Jerusalem and POMEF and Saving to UKDel New York and Washington.]

DDD



CONFIDENTIAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Sir H. Trevelyan

No. 660

April 10, 1956.

R1091/97. 11.59 a.m. April 10, 1956.  
12.32 p.m. April 10, 1956.

IMMEDIATE  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 660 of April 10.  
Repeated for information to Jerusalem

U.K. Del. New York  
Amman P.O.M.E.F.  
Damascus Washington

Jerusalem telegram No. 122 paragraph 2.

General Burns' liaison officer has shown us reply of Egyptian Foreign Minister which states that Burns' imminent visit to Cairo with the Secretary General will afford an appropriate opportunity for a thorough discussion of all points raised in his messages of April 6 and 8. "Meanwhile the Egyptian Government will continue to take all measures necessary for the maintenance of security around the armistice demarcation lines".

2. Burns and Secretary General are expected here this evening.

Foreign Office pass to Jerusalem U.K. Del. New York, Amman, Damascus and Washington. (all Immediate) as my telegrams Nos. 41, 12, 154, 53 and 78.

[Repeated to Jerusalem, U.K. Del. New York, Amman, Damascus, and Washington].

ADVANCE COPIES TO:

Private Secretary  
Sir I. Kirkpatrick  
Mr. Shuckburgh  
Head of Levant Department



mmmmmm

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Wikeley  
No. 132  
April 10, 1956

R109/198

D. 12.50 p.m. April 10, 1956  
R. 1.15 p.m. April 10, 1956

IMMEDIATE  
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 132 of April 10

Repeated for information to:- Cairo

Tel Aviv

P.O.M.E.F.

and Saving to UKDEL New York

Washington

Paris

My telegram No. 121: <sup>VR107/181</sup> Egypt-Israel.

Following is text of the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs' reply to General Burns' message: Begins:-

Your imminent visit to Cairo with the Secretary General will afford an appropriate opportunity for a thorough discussion on all points raised in your recent messages. Meanwhile, Egyptian Government will continue to take all measures necessary for the maintenance of security around the demarcation line. Ends.

2. This message has been rushed to General Burns, who is now in Tel Aviv with the Secretary General and due to leave for Egypt at about 1500 hours local time today. Israelis have not yet been told that message has been received.

Foreign Office pass Immediate to Cairo and Priority to POMEF as my telegrams Nos. 58 and 53 and Saving to UKDEL New York, Washington and Paris as my telegrams Nos. 14, 18 and 18.

[Repeated to Cairo, POMEF and Saving to UKDEL New York, Washington and Paris]

ADVANCE COPIES:-

Private Secretary    Head of Levant Department  
Sir I. Kirkpatrick    Head of News Department  
Mr. Shuckburgh

.....

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND  
WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Wikeley

No. 134  
April 10, 1956

D. 5.21 p.m. April 10, 1956  
R. 5.56 p.m. April 10, 1956

IMMEDIATE  
CONFIDENTIAL

R109/101

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 134 of April 10.  
Repeated for information to Cairo

Tel Aviv  
UKDel New York  
POMEF  
Washington  
Paris

and Saving to

VR1001/98

My telegram No. 132: Egypt - Israel.

The Secretary General has sent a message to the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs referring to General Burns' messages and to one the Secretary General himself sent yesterday requesting strict compliance with the terms of Article 2 of the Armistice Agreement. He continues:-

"So far the only reply to these demarchés is the Foreign Minister's letter of today to General Burns. I am disappointed by the contents of this letter. It should be obvious that the talks with the Government of Egypt, which I have to undertake under a mandate from the Security Council would be deprived of the necessary basis if they could not be conducted against the background of an assurance by each party concerned to observe the stipulations of paragraph 2 of the said article.

"Under these circumstances, I express the expectation that on my arrival in Cairo I can receive the requested assurances. If such an assurance, which for me is a pre-condition for my mission on behalf of the Security Council, is not given, I would find myself obliged to reconsider my plan now to enter upon discussions with the Egyptian Government in implementation of the Security Council resolution.

"I trust you understand the gravity of my representations and will give me the necessary cooperation."

2. The UNTSO calculate that this message will have reached Cairo about the same time as the Secretary General.

/Foreign