

wounded, 4 seriously. Egyptians allege penetration of Gaza strip by Israelis. UN observer was at kilo 95 when Israel mortar fire commenced.

Re my telegram 262<sup>2</sup> Ely, assistant to Hommel, reports five Israel casualties on April 2 as result mining of track near Gaza DL. This was fourth mining incident in week and sixth of recent date.

Sabini

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<sup>2</sup>The consulate general in Jerusalem, in telegram 262, April 2, informed the Department that Egyptian and Israeli forces earlier in the day had exchanged fire at a point south of the city of Gaza, where Wadi Gaza crossed the demarcation line, and that another mining incident had occurred when an Israeli vehicle on patrol in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip had hit a mine. (*Ibid.*, 674.84A/4-255)

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#### 64. Editorial Note

On April 4, the Representative of Israel submitted to the Security Council a complaint alleging that Egypt had launched repeated attacks against Israel, including 1) the armed assault at Pattish on March 24; 2) repeated attacks by mining and gunfire on Israeli army units patrolling the Egypt-Israel border at the Gaza Strip between March 26 and April 3; 3) the attack on an Israeli army patrol and on the village of Nahal Oz on April 3. (U.N. doc. S/3385) On April 6, the Security Council met, heard statements by the Israeli and Egyptian representatives, and adjourned pending receipt of the findings of the Mixed Armistice Commission. (U.N. doc. S/PV.697)

On April 14, Major General E.L.M. Burns, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, reported to the Security Council that the most important factor contributing to increased tension following the action at Gaza had been the mining of tracks used by Israeli army vehicles. To reduce these incidents and improve the situation in the Gaza area, Burns urged the immediate institution of joint patrols. Egypt had notified him of its willingness in principle to establish such patrols, but he had not received a final reply from the Israeli authorities. Both sides, he reported, were prepared to effect a local commanders' agreement and had given verbal assurances that they were employing only regular army and police personnel along the demarcation line. The Israeli authorities favored the erection of obstacles to help prevent infiltration, and the Egyptian authorities, while seeing difficulties in connection with that