

proposal, were prepared to consider ways and means of carrying it out. Lastly, Burns reported that, at Egyptian request, he was posting additional United Nations Military Observers on the Egyptian side of the demarcation line. (U.N. doc. S/3390 and Add. 1)

On April 18, the Egyptian Representative informed the Security Council that Egyptian military authorities would soon begin construction of barbed wire fences within Egyptian-controlled territory along the line running through certain essential positions on the demarcation line. (U.N. doc. S/3393) On April 19, after a brief discussion by the Council, the President of the Council observed that the majority apparently saw no need for any new action, since the possible measures to avert incidents in the area of the demarcation line had been fully covered in the Council's resolutions of March 29 and 30. (U.N. doc. S/PV. 698)

65. Telegram From the Embassy in Israel to the Department of State¹

Tel Aviv, April 5, 1955—3 p.m.

858. Saw Prime Minister in Jerusalem at his urgent request afternoon April 4. Neither British nor French Ambassadors were called in. Almost immediately Sharett, more disturbed than I have ever seen him, spoke in substance as follows:

Situation has gone from bad to worse, is now completely untenable. Egyptians are employing two established tactics (1) placing mines inside Israel territory along Gaza border, when necessary under covering fire from positions on their side—Israelis had "surprised" mine-laying parties and on two occasions, ascertained that they were Egyptian soldiers (2) were opening fire on any Israel patrol that came within sight apparently on standing instructions to do so. Here Prime Minister digressed briefly to describe incident reported in Jerusalem 262 to Department.² He denied categorically and with some heat the report that Israel had fired first and expressed displeasure over wording of UNTSO communiqué giving possible inference Israel forces started shooting. He emphasized the

¹ Source: Department of State, Central Files, 674.84A/4-555. Secret; Priority. Received at 4:38 p.m. Repeated priority to Cairo, Jerusalem, Baghdad, Amman, Beirut, Damascus, London, and Paris.

² See footnote 2, Document 63.