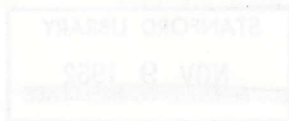


MIDDLE EAST RECORD

VOLUME ONE

1960



THE ISRAEL ORIENTAL SOCIETY
THE REUVEN SHILOAH RESEARCH CENTER

Tel Aviv, P.O.B. 1067

into the airspace of the Gaza strip and Sinai peninsula on 5 May and that one plane had been hit. (*R. Beirut*, 6 May-IMB, 6 May) The Israel Army spokesman denied the whole story. (*Ha'aretz*, 8 May)

On 19 May Israeli jet fighters intercepted a UN plane one mile inside Israel territory, and after identification escorted it back to the border. Subsequently it became known that the plane carried Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian PM then on a visit to the UAR. (*Ha'aretz*, 20 May) On 1 Aug Nehru, speaking in the Indian parliament, intimated that Israel had prior knowledge of his intended visit to the Gaza strip. (*Ha'aretz*, 2 Aug) This was officially denied by the Israel Foreign Ministry spokesman. (*Ha'aretz*, 2 Aug) Mr. Nehru said that Israel's action was unwarranted, but that the UN SG had expressed regret at the incident, and that he (Mr. Nehru) considered it closed. (*Ha'aretz*, 2, 11 Aug)

On 26 May, according to Israeli sources, an Egyptian Mig 17 jet fighter was hit by Israeli planes and was seen falling into Egyptian territory with smoke billowing from its rear and parts of it falling away. It was one of four Migs which had violated Israel airspace and were intercepted by two Israeli jet fighter planes. (*Ha'aretz*, 27 May) UAR sources claimed that an Israeli plane had been hit over UAR territory and that the "dog-fight" had taken place between two planes against two (*R. Cairo*, 26 May-IMB, 27 May) The Israel Press carried an aerial photograph of the damaged Egyptian plane in the air. (*Ha'aretz*; *Davar*; *Jer. Post*, 28 May) On 26 May Egypt demanded a MAC enquiry, which resulted in Israel being condemned *in absentia*. (*R. Cairo*, 27 May-IMB 27 May; *R. Cairo*, 30 May-IMB, 31 May) Foreign military attachés in Israel, quoted by the Israel Press, expressed the opinion that Israel had once again demonstrated air superiority, especially in so far as the quality of her pilots was concerned. (*Ha'aretz*; *Davar*, 29 May)

Aug-Sept: Egyptian Intelligence Missions Intercepted. On 19 Aug two infiltrators, believed to have been students sent to spy in Israel, were killed in the Yad Mordechai area. (*Jer. Post*, 22 Aug)

On 20 Sept a UAR intelligence agent and his two-man armed escort were killed by an IDF patrol in the Yad Mordechai area. The guards carried Karl Gustav machineguns, and the agent a revolver, an Israeli identity card, Israeli currency, etc. (*Ha'aretz*, 25 Sept)

Sept-Oct: Aerial Incidents. The UAR reported that four Israeli Mystère jet fighters had violated the air space of Gaza and Khan Yunis on 8 Sept. (*BBC in Arabic*, 8 Sept-IMB, 8 Sept) This was denied by an Israel Army spokesman. (*Ha'aretz*, 9 Sept)

On 19 Oct one of two Egyptian Mig 17 jet fighter planes which penetrated into Israel airspace was reported by Israel sources to have been damaged in a dog-fight over Israel territory. (*Ha'aretz*, 20 Oct) A UAR spokesman said that on this date four Israeli jet fighters had crossed into Sinai airspace and that one had been shot down. (*R. Cairo*, 19 Oct-IMB, 20 Oct) This was denied by the Israel Army spokesman. (*Ha'aretz*, 20, 21 Oct)

Oct-Dec: Further Incidents. On 18 Oct an infiltrator was killed by an Israeli patrol in the Yad Mordechai area after refusing an order to halt. (*R. Israel*, 19 Oct-BBC/W, 27 Oct)

On 26 Oct UAR security authorities detained two Israeli fighting vessels, with eight seamen on board, near Gaza. (*Ahram*, 27 30 Oct; *R. Cairo*, 26 Oct-IMB, 26 Oct)

On 19 Dec fire was opened on an Israeli patrol in the Nitzana area. [This area, also known as Ajja-al-Hafir, was demilitarized according to the Israel-Egyptian Armistice Agreement which is no longer considered valid by Israel.] The Israel Army spokesman said that three members of the patrol were slightly injured. A complaint was lodged with the UN Emergency Force. (*Ha'aretz*, 20 Dec)

ISRAELI-JORDANIAN BORDER RELATIONS

The Mount Scopus Demilitarized Zone. Background Note: The Mount Scopus-Isawiyah DZ, north-east of Jerusalem, consists of Israeli and Jordanian territory and is surrounded completely by Jordanian territory. Communications between Israel and the zone, in which the original buildings of the Hebrew University are located, are kept up by a bi-weekly convoy. Israel, however, demands that Jordan comply with the Armistice Agreement, which provides for the resumption of normal activity on Mount Scopus, including work at the Hebrew University. Israel contends that the Israeli part of the zone is sovereign Israel territory, and that except for restrictions imposed upon it by the Armistice Agreement Israel is free to act as it deems fit.

According to the truce map of 8 July 1948, Isawiya village is in the Israel sector of Mount Scopus. However UNTSO regards the village as a special district not belonging to the Israel sector. This and the fact that Isawiyah is physically contiguous with Jordan has led to frequent friction in the area.

The bi-weekly Israeli convoys to Mount Scopus were maintained regularly throughout the year.

In Jan General von Horn, Chief of UNTSO, met the Jordanian Foreign Minister, Musa Nasir, and discussed Israeli activity on Mount Scopus. (*Difa*, 11 Jan)

In July General von Horn had talks with Jordanian officials on Jordan's complaints that Israel was hampering free movement between the Old City of Jerusalem and Isawiyah village as well as complaints against Israeli flights over Jordanian territory. (*Ha'aretz*, 10 July) Beirut Radio reported on 2 Sept that Jordan had protested against Israel's blocking the way from Jerusalem to Isawiyah. (IMB, 3 Sept) (See above.)

Jan: Various Complaints. An Eilat inhabitant complained that shots had been fired at him from across the Jordanian-Israeli border on 6 Jan. (*Ha'aretz*, 7 Jan)

In Jan Jordan complained that two Israeli Mystère fighters had penetrated into Jordanian airspace in the Jarash area. (*Difa*, 5 Jan) This was denied by Israel. (*Ha'aretz*, 6 Jan)

Jan: Jordanian Aircraft Enter Israeli Airspace with Israeli Consent. On 27 Jan Jordanian jet fighter planes circled low over Jerusalem, violating Israeli airspace, in an air display in honour of King Muhammad V of Morocco, who was on a state visit to the Old City of Jerusalem. Israel circles stated that Israel had known in advance about the intended flypast and that the planes would have to enter Israeli airspace. This was, of course, a violation of the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement, but in view of the nature of the display Israel tacitly consented, just as Jordan had not objected to Israel bringing heavy military equipment to Jerusalem for Independence Day parades. (*Ha'aretz*, 28 Jan)

Feb-Dec: Various Incidents. [All kidnappings by Jordanians in Israel were of Israeli Arabs; the motives were probably of a private nature.]

ARAB-ISRAEL BORDER RELATIONS

On 6 Feb 20 sheep disappeared from Kfar Shmuel in the South. (*Ha'aretz*, 7 Feb)

On 13 Feb Jordanians stole a herd of cattle belonging to Amatzia village. Security circles quoted in the daily Press intimated that Israel regarded this incident, the fourth of its kind during the past few weeks, as serious. (*Ha'aretz*, 15 Feb)

On 24 Feb an Israeli hiker was killed and another injured by Jordanians north of Ein Gedi. Both were armed. No complaint was lodged with the MAC. (*Ha'aretz*, 25 Feb) According to a Jordanian source an Israeli patrol had crossed the border near Ein Gedi and opened fire on a Jordanian patrol. Fire was returned and the Israelis were forced to retreat. (*R. Amman*, 26 Feb-BBC/W, 10 Mar)

On 27 Feb an Israeli patrol inadvertently crossed the border north of Ein Gedi. (*Ha'aretz*, 28 Feb)

On 8 Mar an Israeli Bedouin Arab was kidnapped near the Hebron road in the Judean hills. (*Ha'aretz*, 9 Mar)

On 21 Mar a Jordanian plane, carrying 19 passengers, violated Israeli airspace near Eilat. Jordan claimed that Israeli planes had attacked it, while Israeli sources stated that they had met it and directed it to return to Jordan. (*R. Beirut*, 22 Mar-IMB, 23 Mar; *Difa'*, 22 Mar; *Ha'aretz*, 23 Mar) A Jordanian resolution condemning Israel failed to secure a majority at a MAC meeting because the chairman abstained. (*Ha'aretz*, 1 Apr)

On 3 Apr a Jordanian soldier unsuccessfully tried to kidnap an Israeli woman from Barta'ah village. (*Ha'aretz*, 4 Apr)

On 13 Apr, the MAC at an official meeting discussed Israeli complaints that Israel citizens arrested by Jordanian forces had been tortured. Jordanian representatives undertook to investigate and see to it that such incidents should not recur. (*Ha'aretz*, 14 Apr)

On 27 Apr an Israeli Arab from Umm-al-Fahm was kidnapped by Jordanian soldiers. (*Ha'aretz*, 28 Apr)

On 9 June Jordanian patrol boats were chased out of Israel territorial waters in Eilat. (*Ha'aretz*, 10 June)

In June Jordan complained that Israel was carrying out flights over her territory to spy on Jordanian fortifications. (*R. Beirut*, 11 June-IMB, 12 June)

On 21 June an American tourist aged 63 was killed by Jordanian guards when he inadvertently crossed the border near Tulkarm. (*Ha'aretz*, 22 June)

On 20 Sept a mother and her young son were arrested by Jordanian soldiers after inadvertently crossing the border from Israel. They were subsequently released. (*Ha'aretz*, 21 Sept)

On 5 Oct Amman Radio reported that an Israeli patrol had crossed the border the same day and retired after being fired on by Jordanian soldiers. One Jordanian soldier was slightly wounded. (*R. Amman*, 5 Oct-IMB, 7 Oct) The Israel Army spokesman denied the report and reported that an Israel Army patrol had been fired on in Israel territory near Magal in the "Triangle" south of Tulkarm. A man of the patrol was slightly wounded. (*Ha'aretz*, 7 Sept)

On 12 Oct, a lunatic, who had left a hospital in Israel, was killed by a patrol in Jordan, according to Jordanian statement—after ignoring an order to halt. (BBC/W, 20 Oct)

On 19 Oct a Jordanian taxi driver drove his taxi through the Mandelbaum Gate (see below) into Israel, and continued full speed ahead. He said that this was an act of despair and that he wanted to stay in Israel. He was returned to Jordan. (*Ha'aretz*, 20 Oct)

On 19 Oct an exchange of fire between Israeli and

Jordanian forces took place near Tulkarm. (*Ha'aretz*, 20 Oct)

On 28 Nov Jordan complained to the MAC that Israel fighter planes had violated her airspace on 28 Nov. (*R. Beirut*, 29 Nov-IMB, 30 Nov)

On 3 Dec Jordanian soldiers stoned and injured a woman who was having her photograph taken on a Jerusalem rooftop near the border. (*Ha'aretz*, 4 Dec)

On 6 Dec about a hundred camels which had "infiltrated" into Israel during the previous few weeks were returned to their owners through the MAC. The Arab shepherds, while staying on the Jordanian side of the border, had sent the camels across to graze. (*Ha'aretz*, 7 Dec)

In Dec it was reported that border stones had been shifted 100 metres westwards into Israel, north of Ein-Sahla, near Umm-al-Fahm. (*Ha'aretz*, 23 Dec)

Legal Border Crossings. [The "Mandelbaum Gate" is the point where legal border crossings are made between Israel and Jordan. Most crossings are made by the diplomatic and consular corps, and by Christians of foreign nationalities resident in Israel and Jordan. Jordan permits foreign tourists to cross into Israel, but not to return to Jordan, provided that they do not have an Israeli visa in their passports. Israel places no such restrictions on tourist crossings. Israeli Christians, Arabs and others, are allowed to cross into Jordan for Christmas only.]

On Easter pilgrims crossed the border both ways. More than 1,000 tourists and foreign residents of all Christian denominations crossed into Jordan for a stay of three to five days. (*Jer. Post*, 15 Apr)

2,500 Christians, 1,500 of them from Nazareth (the great majority being Israeli Arabs) crossed the border into Jordan for a two-night stay to celebrate Christmas at the holy places there. (Another 1,500 to 2,000 crossed the border a fortnight later to celebrate Christmas according to the Gregorian-calendar.) Many more who had applied were rejected by the Jordanian authorities "on security grounds." The crossings, as always, were arranged jointly by the Israeli and Jordanian authorities. [This traditional Christmas crossing provides an opportunity for family reunions.] (*Jer. Post*, 19, 23, 25, 26 Dec)

ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER RELATIONS

Feb-Nov: Various Incidents. On 11 Apr four members of the Yiftah kibbutz were kidnapped by Lebanese forces in Israel territory. (*Ha'aretz*, 14 Apr) They were returned on 19 Apr.

On 19 Apr three Lebanese fishing boats, with 14 fishermen aboard, were caught in Israeli territorial waters. (*Ha'aretz*, 20 Apr) The fishermen were subsequently released. (*Ha'aretz*, 8 May)

On 22 May Lebanese fishing boats were chased away from Israeli territorial waters. (*Ha'aretz*, 23 May)

On 10 Aug several Lebanese youths were caught by Israeli policemen stealing fruit from the groves of the Malkiyah kibbutz and arrested. (*Ha'aretz*, 11 Aug)

On 11 Aug a Lebanese policeman who had gone hunting was arrested in Israeli territory. He was subsequently returned. (*Ha'aretz*, 13, 19 Aug)

On 17 Sept a Lebanese civilian passenger airplane penetrated into Israeli airspace in the North. It was intercepted by Israeli jet fighters and escorted back to the border. (*Ha'aretz*, 18 Sept; *R. Cairo*, 17 Sept-IMB, 18 Sept)

On 27 Sept two Lebanese fishermen were caught in