

# MIDDLE EAST RECORD

VOLUME ONE

1960

THE ISRAEL ORIENTAL SOCIETY  
THE REUVEN SHILOAH RESEARCH CENTER

Tel Aviv, P.O.B. 1067

## THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN BORDER

[Incidents in the southern DZ started in Dec 1959, and armed clashes occurred daily from 26 Jan. The village of Tawafiq was raided by Israel Defence Forces (IDF) units on 1 Feb and clashes continued until 6 Feb. Later in the month war-like tension ensued between Israel and the UAR. (On these see p 197 ff.) The incidents in the northern DZ in Feb described below were regarded at the time as a consequence of the tension.]

**Jan-June: Various Incidents.** During the sowing season, the kibbutz (collective village) of Dan in the Huleh Valley also cultivated its land in the northern DZ. In the course of this work, Israeli tractors struck mines in the area nine times. (*Ha'aretz*, 14 Jan)

An Israeli patrol was fired on north-east of Kfar Szold. (*Ha'aretz*, 14 Jan)

On 26 Jan an Israeli soldier was slightly wounded when a squad of Syrian troops penetrated about 150 metres into Israel territory and fired at a patrol, north-east of Kfar Szold. The Israel patrol did not return fire. The Syrians kept up automatic fire for 15 minutes and withdrew when UN observers arrived. Israel immediately lodged a complaint with the Israeli-Syrian MAC. (*Jer. Post*, 27 Jan)

Israeli sources reported that a member of an Israeli patrol moving in Israel territory was wounded by Syrian fire from Tel Azizat in the Huleh Valley, which continued during attempts by an armoured car to extricate the soldiers. A cease-fire was arranged by UN observers. (*Jer. Post*, 5 Feb) Syrian sources said that an Israeli armoured car had penetrated the DZ and opened fire on the Arab border position, and another armoured car appeared later. One of them was hit by Syrian fire. (*R. Cairo*, 4 Feb-*IMB*, 5 Feb)

On 12 Feb two members of an Israeli patrol were killed by Syrian machine-gun fire in the Tel Hilal sector, north of Ashmura (formerly known as Dardara). It was on its way to check a fire in the eastern Huleh Valley, and was in Israel territory when attacked. (*Jer. Post*, 13 Feb) The Israel Chief of Staff, General Laskov, reported to a Cabinet meeting that Syrians were building fortifications on the border. (*Jer. Post*, 15 Feb) The Syrian Army spokesman said that the incident started when Israeli forces opened fire on Arab cultivators in the DZ. (*R. Damascus*, 12 Feb-*IMB*, 14 Feb)

In Mar Israel and Syria cooperated for the first time since the Armistice Agreement was signed in destroying swarms of locusts near the border. After Syrian agreement, Israeli planes sprayed the border areas without interference from 17 to 25 Mar. (*Ha'aretz*, 3 Apr)

The Israeli Press reported that Syrians had penetrated into Israel territory in the Tel Katzir area several times in a few days, some of them crossing the drainage ditch and reaping summer crops. (*Ha'aretz*; *Jer. Post*, 23 May)

On 28 May Syrian forces fired at Israeli agricultural officials locating swarms of locusts near the Bnot Ya'akov bridge. (*Ha'aretz*, 29 May)

In June the waters of the Dufilla spring on the Syrian side of the border, which flow into Israel and are used by the Shamir kibbutz, were diverted into Syria, as the Syrians do every year at this season. UNTSO dealt with the situation. (*Ha'aretz*, 9 June)

**June-July: Flare-up in Southern DZ and Bnot Ya'akov Bridge Sector.** [The relative quiet which had prevailed in the southern DZ area since mid-Feb was broken in mid-June.] On 11 June an Israeli jeep was damaged by a mine near the Bnot Ya'akov bridge. (*Ha'aretz*, 12 June)

On 12 June fire was opened from Syrian positions in

Upper Tawafiq at a tractor ploughing a field in the Tel Katzir area, and later in the day at a UN and an Israeli officer investigating the incident. (*Ha'aretz*, 13 June) A Syrian Army spokesman said that Israel was contemplating aggressive action in the DZ and warned that she would be repelled by force. (*R. Damascus*, 13 June-*BBC*, 14 June)

On 14 June fire was opened on an Israeli patrol near the Bnot Ya'akov bridge. (*Ha'aretz*, 15 June)

On 15 June Syrian positions in Upper Tawafiq fired at a tractor ploughing a field near Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz*, 16 June)

On 27 June Cairo Radio in Hebrew quoted from *al-Akhabār* a statement by the First (Syrian) Army spokesman to the effect that the slightest provocation on the borders by "Israeli gangs" would be repelled by the victorious UAR Armies in the most severe fashion. Should Israeli artillery fire one single shell, "we shall transform the Israeli border area into a living hell; our reaction will follow the aggression in a minute; we shall not wait for the establishment of contact or for negotiations." Another warning in the same vein was broadcast by Cairo Radio on 29 June, again quoting the Cairo Press. [These warnings were not broadcast in Arabic.] (*IMB*, 27, 29 June)

On 28 June an Israel border police officer was killed on a routine border patrol south-east of Tel Katzir in the DZ by heavy Syrian fire from Upper Tawafiq positions. Several UN attempts to secure a cease-fire and to evacuate the wounded man were turned down by the Syrians. He died on his way to a hospital. (*Ha'aretz*, 29 June)

An Israel note to the Security Council (not asking for specific action) asserted that the border situation had deteriorated. It listed previous incidents (including Syrian fishing in the Sea of Galilee under military cover), quoted UAR threats (see above), and asserted that Syrian forces on the border had orders to fire first and then to wait for further instructions. Diplomatic circles termed the note a "warning" to the UAR. (*Ha'aretz*; *Davar*; *Jer. Post*, 3 July)

On 3 July Syrians opened fire at an armoured car engaged in a routine patrol in the area where the border police officer was killed a week previously. (*Ha'aretz*, 4 July)

Dr Biran, Director of Armistice Affairs at the Israel Foreign Ministry, met General von Horn, Chief of UNTSO, and told him, according to Israel Press reports, that the latest spate of incidents could be understood only in the light of recent UAR threats. Syrian troop concentrations on the border were a danger to peace. (*Ha'aretz*; *Davar*, 6 July)

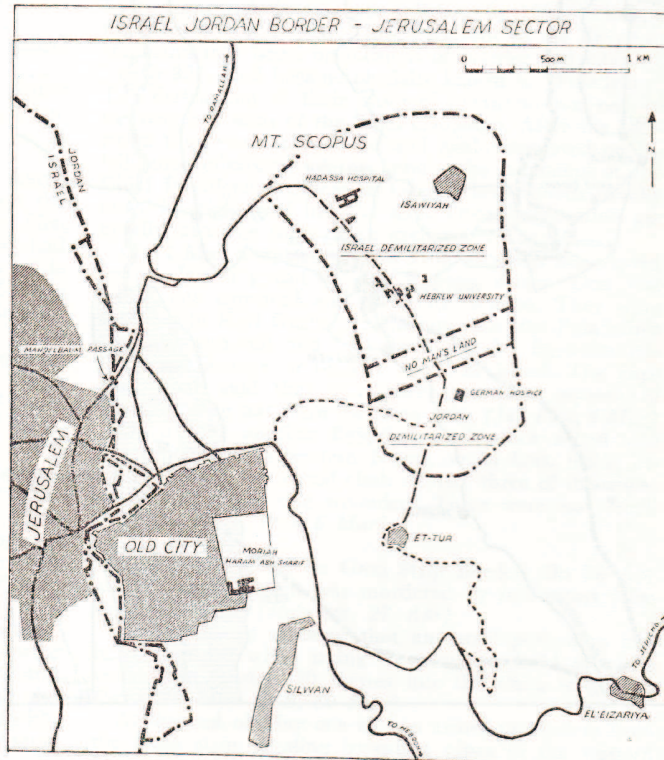
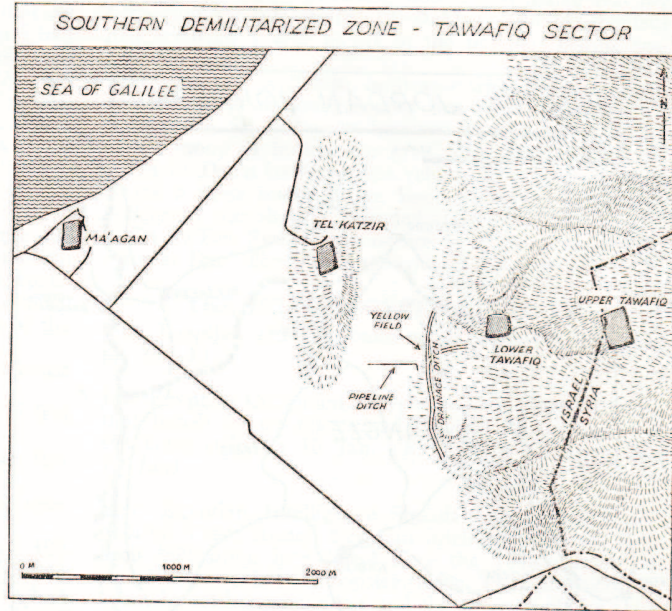
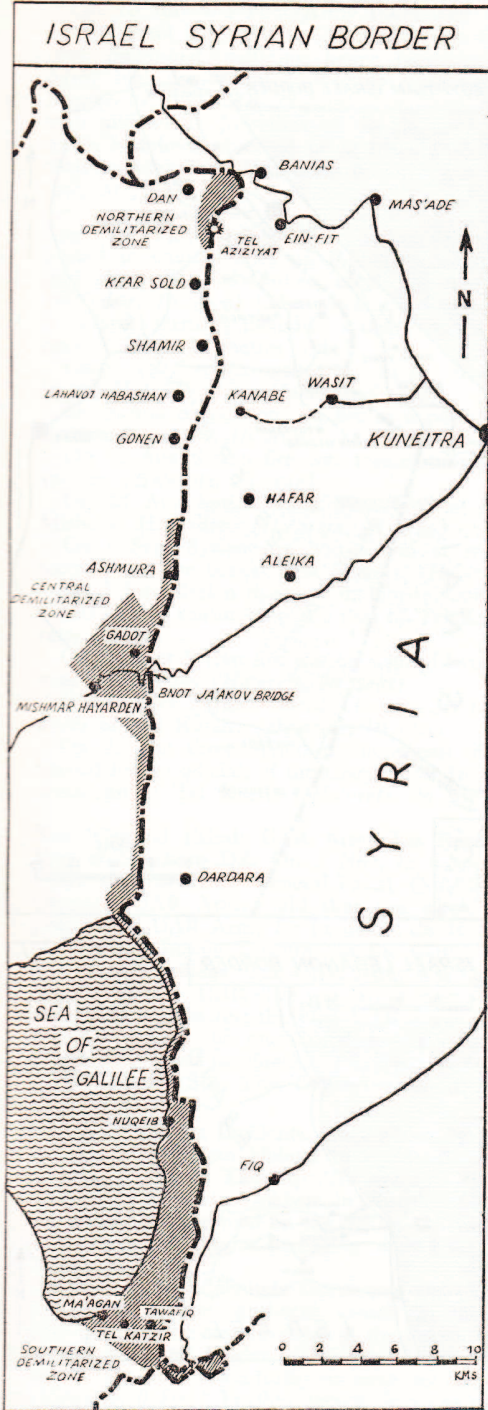
The UAR sent a note to the UN Security Council rebutting Israeli allegations of renewed UAR military activity along the Syrian border. The note accused Israel of 259 aggressive acts along the border since the beginning of 1960. (*R. Cairo*, 6 July-*IMB*, 6 July)

General von Horn held talks with General Faisal, Commander of the UAR First Army in Damascus. (*R. Amman*, 8 July-*IMB*, 9 July)

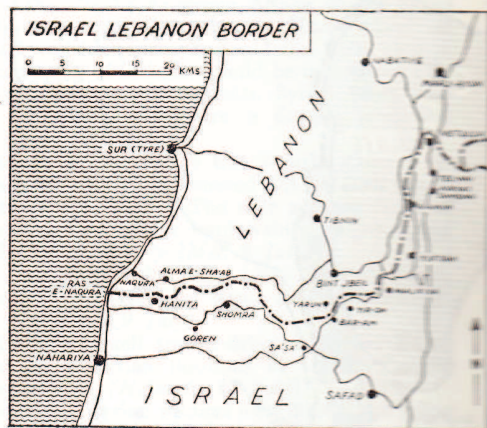
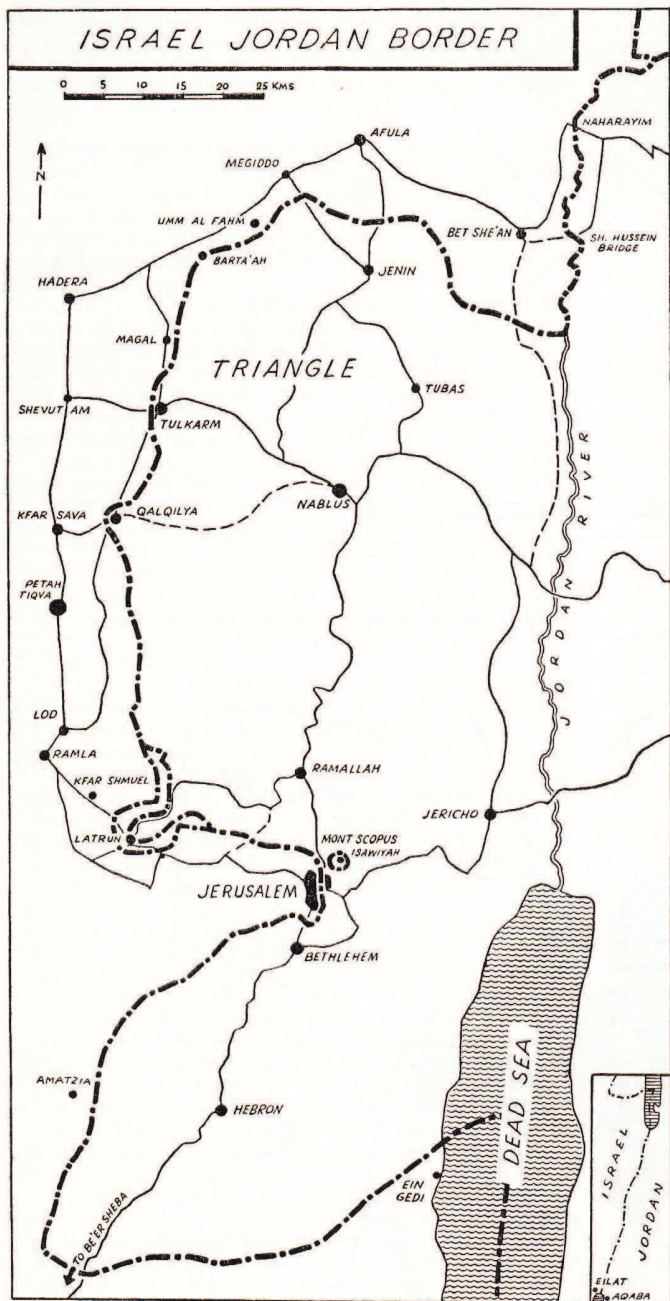
On 11 July an Israeli tractor-driver from Tel Katzir was injured when Syrian positions in Upper Tawafiq opened fire on him. (*Ha'aretz*, 12 July)

On 22 July, two Syrian soldiers were killed, according to the IDF spokesman, when a Syrian platoon penetrated into Israel territory south of Kfar Szold. The Syrians brought up heavy reinforcements, and their fire continued for six hours, being directed also at Kfar Szold. (*Ha'aretz*, 24 July) Reporting on this incident, *Damascus Radio* said: "Heavy casualties were inflicted on an Israeli patrol on 22 July. The Israelis thought we were pre-

ARAB-ISRAEL BORDER RELATIONS



ARAB-ISRAEL BORDER RELATIONS



#### ARAB-ISRAEL BORDER RELATIONS

occupied with preparations for the eighth anniversary of the revolution." (*R. Damascus*, 22 July-*IMB*, 24 July)

On 27 July the First Army spokesman said that an Israeli patrol had tried to infiltrate Syrian lines and had been ambushed, suffering heavy casualties. The First Army had demonstrated absolute supremacy. (*R. Damascus*, 27 July-*IMB*, 28 July) The Israel Army spokesman said on 27 July that on the previous night Syrian forces had been observed firing heavily at targets inside their own territory. No Israeli unit was involved. (*Ha'aretz*, 28 July)

**Aug-Oct: Various Incidents.** In Aug Syrians were reported to have stepped up fishing in the north-eastern part of the Sea of Galilee, employing about 20 boats. (*Ha'aretz*, 15 Aug) [The whole of the Sea of Galilee is in Israel territory including a demilitarized strip of the eastern shore, 10 metres wide.]

On 4 Aug Syrians opened fire at the Shamir Kibbutz in the Huleh Valley. (*Ha'aretz*, 5 Aug)

On 9 Aug Syrians opened fire at a patrol east of Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz*, 10 Aug)

On 22 Aug Syrian fire was trained on Mishmar Hayarden. (*Ha'aretz*, 23 Aug)

On 23 Aug Syrian shots were fired at Gadot, near Mishmar Hayarden. (*Ha'aretz*, 24 Aug)

On 6 Sept Syrian fire was aimed at workmen 100 metres from the border near Shamir. (*Ha'aretz*, 7 Sept)

On 7 Sept Syrian positions in Upper Tawafiq fired at a patrol on a routine checkup east of Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz*, 8 Sept)

On 19 Sept Syrian fire was opened on Israeli workmen near Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz*, 20 Sept)

On 18 Oct Syrians opened fire on an Israeli patrol south of Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz*, 19 Oct)

On 25 Oct three Syrian positions east of Tel Katzir opened fire on officials of the Geophysical Institute, 1 km. south-east of Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz*, 26 Oct)

**Nov: General Faisal: UAR Army has Regained Large Part of Southern DZ.** On 2 Nov, in a speech on the UAR Air Force Day, General Faisal, C-in-C of the First (Syrian) UAR Army, said that the whole world had praised the UAR Army for its heroic deeds in the battle of Tawafiq. Lower Tawafiq (in the southern DZ) was now a model village. The UAR Army was defending the village and the UAR flag was flying over it. "I would like to reveal a secret: the First UAR Army has regained a major part of the southern demilitarized zone, which others abandoned previously." (*R. Sawt al-Arab*, 3 Nov-*IMB*, 4 Nov) (See: The Tawafiq Incident, p 197 ff.)

**Nov-Dec: Various Incidents.** On 26 Nov Syrians opened fire on the Ma'agan kibbutz in the southern DZ from positions in Upper Tawafiq. (*Ha'aretz*, 27 Nov)

On 29 Nov Syrian soldiers in Nuqeib village opened fire on Israeli fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, 50 metres from the eastern shore damaging their boat. (*Ha'aretz*, 30 Nov)

In Dec it was definitely ascertained that Syrians were digging a 1.5 km. anti-tank trench in the ten-metre strip between the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee and the international border. (*Ha'aretz*, 7 Dec) Israel demands that work cease forthwith were not complied with. (*Ha'aretz*, 8 Dec) Further Israeli demands to the same effect were ignored. (*Ha'aretz*, 16 Dec)

On 7 Dec two rounds of automatic fire were fired from Lower Tawafiq at two tractor-drivers near Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz*, 8 Dec)

On 11 Dec a tractor struck a mine north of the Dan kibbutz in the DZ. Evidence showed that it had recently been planted. (*Ha'aretz*, 12 Dec) [A similar incident had occurred a year before in the previous sowing season—see above.]

On 20 Dec a Syrian infiltrator armed with a sub-machinegun and handgrenades was killed inside Israeli territory in an encounter between Israeli border police and a group of infiltrators. (*Jer. Post*, 20 Dec)

On 21 Dec a border police vehicle on a routine patrol struck a mine south of the Bnot Ya'akov bridge. One policeman was slightly wounded. (*Ha'aretz*, 22 Dec)

On 24 Dec Syrians opened fire on a group of picnickers near Dan. There were no injured. (*Ha'aretz*, 25 Dec)

#### THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN BORDER

[For Egyptian military build-up in Sinai in Feb, see pp 203-4.]

**Jan: Egyptian Complaint.** Egypt complained to the MAC that Israeli fighter planes had violated its airspace over the Gaza strip on 10 Jan. (*R. Amman*, 11 Jan-*IMB*, 12 Jan)

**Mar: Egyptian Intelligence Squads Intercepted** [BACKGROUND NOTE: Armed Egyptian intelligence squads have been infiltrating into Israel since the 1948 war to reconnoitre, especially to register traffic. They are recruited from the settled population and the refugees of the Gaza strip and the Sinai Bedouins, mostly from criminal elements. In many instances they committed criminal acts, apart from their intelligence mission. In 1955-1956 the numbers were increased. They were sent by the Egyptian command into Israel on missions of murder and sabotage (see p 327) and became officially known as "Fida'iyūn." The destruction of their bases of operation was one of the declared aims of the Sinai campaign. After the campaign they were reorganized and again employed on intelligence missions in Israel, under the command of the Chief Intelligence Officer in Gaza. These squads usually move by night and hide by day. Their interception generally takes the form of an exchange of fire.]

On 2 Mar a squad of three Fida'iyūn was intercepted by an Israeli patrol in the Halutza dunes. One was killed, one captured and the third escaped. They were armed with Karl Gustav submachineguns [the Fida'iyūn's standard weapon] and had been sent by Egyptian military intelligence to register traffic in Israel. The captured man said that there were marauder squads in "every" police station in the Gaza strip. (*Jer. Post*, 4 Mar)

On 5 Mar another Egyptian intelligence squad was intercepted in the western Negev, seven kms. inside Israeli territory. An armed clash ensued, three of the squad being killed and one wounded. There were no Israeli casualties. (*Jer. Post*, 6 Mar)

**Apr-May: Incidents on Gaza Strip Border.** On 26 Apr an Ashkelon resident was murdered by infiltrators from the Gaza strip. (*Ha'aretz*, 27 Apr)

In May Cairo reported that an Israel policeman had been wounded while trying to recover a herd of cattle which had crossed 30 metres into the Gaza strip. (*R. Cairo*, 19 May-*IMB*, 19 May)

At the end of May one of two armed marauders from the Gaza strip, stealing irrigation pipes in the western Negev, was killed. (*Jer. Post*, 31 May)

**May: Spate of Aerial Incidents.** An Egyptian spokesman said that four Israeli jet fighters had penetrated

## ARAB-ISRAEL BORDER RELATIONS

occupied with preparations for the eighth anniversary of the revolution." (*R. Damascus, 22 July-IMB, 24 July*)

On 27 July the First Army spokesman said that an Israeli patrol had tried to infiltrate Syrian lines and had been ambushed, suffering heavy casualties. The First Army had demonstrated absolute supremacy. (*R. Damascus, 27 July-IMB, 28 July*) The Israel Army spokesman said on 27 July that on the previous night Syrian forces had been observed firing heavily at targets inside their own territory. No Israeli unit was involved. (*Ha'aretz, 28 July*)

**Aug-Oct: Various Incidents.** In Aug Syrians were reported to have stepped up fishing in the north-eastern part of the Sea of Galilee, employing about 20 boats. (*Ha'aretz, 15 Aug*) [The whole of the Sea of Galilee is in Israel territory including a demilitarized strip of the eastern shore, 10 metres wide.]

On 4 Aug Syrians opened fire at the Shamir Kibbutz in the Huleh Valley. (*Ha'aretz, 5 Aug*)

On 9 Aug Syrians opened fire at a patrol east of Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz, 10 Aug*)

On 22 Aug Syrian fire was trained on Mishmar Hayarden. (*Ha'aretz, 23 Aug*)

On 23 Aug Syrian shots were fired at Gadot, near Mishmar Hayarden. (*Ha'aretz, 24 Aug*)

On 6 Sept Syrian fire was aimed at workmen 100 metres from the border near Shamir. (*Ha'aretz, 7 Sept*)

On 7 Sept Syrian positions in Upper Tawafiq fired at a patrol on a routine checkup east of Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz, 8 Sept*)

On 19 Sept Syrian fire was opened on Israeli workmen near Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz, 20 Sept*)

On 18 Oct Syrians opened fire on an Israeli patrol south of Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz, 19 Oct*)

On 25 Oct three Syrian positions east of Tel Katzir opened fire on officials of the Geophysical Institute, 1 km. south-east of Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz, 26 Oct*)

**Nov: General Faisal: UAR Army has Regained Large Part of Southern DZ.** On 2 Nov, in a speech on the UAR Air Force Day, General Faisal, C-in-C of the First (Syrian) UAR Army, said that the whole world had praised the UAR Army for its heroic deeds in the battle of Tawafiq. Lower Tawafiq (in the southern DZ) was now a model village. The UAR Army was defending the village and the UAR flag was flying over it. "I would like to reveal a secret: the First UAR Army has regained a major part of the southern demilitarized zone, which others abandoned previously." (*R. Sawt al-Arab, 3 Nov-IMB, 4 Nov*) (See: The Tawafiq Incident, p 197 ff.)

**Nov-Dec: Various Incidents.** On 26 Nov Syrians opened fire on the Ma'agan kibbutz in the southern DZ from positions in Upper Tawafiq. (*Ha'aretz, 27 Nov*)

On 29 Nov Syrian soldiers in Nuq'ib village opened fire on Israeli fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, 50 metres from the eastern shore damaging their boat. (*Ha'aretz, 30 Nov*)

In Dec it was definitely ascertained that Syrians were digging a 1.5 km. anti-tank trench in the ten-metre strip between the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee and the international border. (*Ha'aretz, 7 Dec*) Israel demands that work cease forthwith were not complied with. (*Ha'aretz, 8 Dec*) Further Israeli demands to the same effect were ignored. (*Ha'aretz, 16 Dec*)

On 7 Dec two rounds of automatic fire were fired from Lower Tawafiq at two tractor-drivers near Tel Katzir. (*Ha'aretz, 8 Dec*)

On 11 Dec a tractor struck a mine north of the Dan kibbutz in the DZ. Evidence showed that it had recently been planted. (*Ha'aretz, 12 Dec*) [A similar incident had occurred a year before in the previous sowing season—see above.]

On 20 Dec a Syrian infiltrator armed with a sub-machinegun and handgrenades was killed inside Israeli territory in an encounter between Israeli border police and a group of infiltrators. (*Jer. Post, 20 Dec*)

On 21 Dec a border police vehicle on a routine patrol struck a mine south of the Bnot Ya'akov bridge. One policeman was slightly wounded. (*Ha'aretz, 22 Dec*)

On 24 Dec Syrians opened fire on a group of picnickers near Dan. There were no injured. (*Ha'aretz, 25 Dec*)

## THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN BORDER

[For Egyptian military build-up in Sinai in Feb, see pp 203-4.]

**Jan: Egyptian Complaint.** Egypt complained to the MAC that Israeli fighter planes had violated its airspace over the Gaza strip on 10 Jan. (*R. Amman, 11 Jan-IMB, 12 Jan*)

**Mar: Egyptian Intelligence Squads Intercepted** [BACKGROUND NOTE: Armed Egyptian intelligence squads have been infiltrating into Israel since the 1948 war to reconnoitre, especially to register traffic. They are recruited from the settled population and the refugees of the Gaza strip and the Sinai Bedouins, mostly from criminal elements. In many instances they committed criminal acts, apart from their intelligence mission. In 1955-1956 the numbers were increased. They were sent by the Egyptian command into Israel on missions of murder and sabotage (see p 327) and became officially known as "Fida'iyyūn." The destruction of their bases of operation was one of the declared aims of the Sinai campaign. After the campaign they were reorganized and again employed on intelligence missions in Israel, under the command of the Chief Intelligence Officer in Gaza. These squads usually move by night and hide by day. Their interception generally takes the form of an exchange of fire.]

On 2 Mar a squad of three Fida'iyyūn was intercepted by an Israeli patrol in the Halutza dunes. One was killed, one captured and the third escaped. They were armed with Karl Gustav submachineguns [the Fida'iyyūn's standard weapon] and had been sent by Egyptian military intelligence to register traffic in Israel. The captured man said that there were marauder squads in "every" police station in the Gaza strip. (*Jer. Post, 4 Mar*)

On 5 Mar another Egyptian intelligence squad was intercepted in the western Negev, seven kms. inside Israeli territory. An armed clash ensued, three of the squad being killed and one wounded. There were no Israeli casualties. (*Jer. Post, 6 Mar*)

**Apr-May: Incidents on Gaza Strip Border.** On 26 Apr an Ashkelon resident was murdered by infiltrators from the Gaza strip. (*Ha'aretz, 27 Apr*)

In May Cairo reported that an Israel policeman had been wounded while trying to recover a herd of cattle which had crossed 30 metres into the Gaza strip. (*R. Cairo, 19 May-IMB, 19 May*)

At the end of May one of two armed marauders from the Gaza strip, stealing irrigation pipes in the western Negev, was killed. (*Jer. Post, 31 May*)

**May: Spate of Aerial Incidents.** An Egyptian spokesman said that four Israeli jet fighters had penetrated

## ARAB-ISRAEL BORDER RELATIONS

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 Auja-al-Hafir, was demilitarized according to the Isrel-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, Isawiyah 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, Mūsa Nāsir, 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.]