

each day); United Nations military observers were unable to identify the aircraft owing to high altitude.

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[Original: English]
[1 December 1976]

The Chief of Staff of UNTSO has submitted the following report on developments in the sector during November 1976:

1. Ground and air activity in the sector increased generally. Ground activity occurred mainly in the vicinity of the villages of Bent Jbail (AMR 1908-2805) and Ain Ebel (AMR 1880-2795) between 8 and 21 November. Naval activity decreased.

2. Israel forces personnel continued to be observed occupying six positions on the Lebanese side of the armistice demarcation line (ADL) near border pillars 6, 11, 14 (except on 15, 18, 22, 24, 27 and 29 November), 18 (except on 24, 27 and 29 November), 19 (except on 20, 27 and 29 November) and 33 (except on 26, 28, 29 and 30 November).

3. There were 20 cases of firing across the ADL, one of which involved an exchange of fire. There were also two crossing violations. These were reported as follows:

(a) OP Lab reported automatic-weapons fire (two reports) by Israel forces on 23 November. It also reported one crossing violation by Israel forces on 3 November (maximum penetration 200 metres).

(b) OP Hin (AMR 1770-2790), east of the village of Marouahine, reported artillery fire on 10 November and mortar fire on 23 November, all by Israel forces. It also reported an exchange of fire on 19 November involving automatic-weapons fire by both Israel forces and unidentified forces. United Nations military observers were unable to determine which side initiated the fire.

(c) OP Ras reported artillery fire on 9 (two reports), 10, 11 (three reports), 12 (three reports) and 21 (two reports) November, mortar fire on 11 November and flares on 23 November, all by Israel forces.

(d) Naqoura outstation reported that an Israel forces naval vessel penetrated Lebanese territorial waters on 14 November (penetration 15,000 metres when last observed).

(e) UNTSO mobile patrols, while located at AMR 1840-2745 and AMR 1811-2787, reported artillery fire by Israel forces on 11 November (two reports).

4. There were 34 overflights reported. Overflights by Israel forces jet aircraft were reported on 1, 3, 4 and 23 November (one each day), on 5, 7 and 14 November (two each day), on 9, 11 and 17 November (three each day), on 18 November (four overflights) and on 15 November (five overflights). Overflights by Israel forces helicopters were reported on 8 and 9 November and by an Israel forces twin-engine aircraft on 22 November (maximum penetration 500 metres in each case). Additionally, three overflights by unidentified propeller aircraft were reported on 17 November; United Nations military observers were unable to identify the aircraft owing to darkness.

DOCUMENT S/12208*

Letter dated 7 October 1976 from the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]
[7 October 1976]

I should be grateful if you would circulate, as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, the attached text of a proposal by the Soviet Union concerning a settlement in the Middle East and the Geneva Peace Conference.

(Signed) A. DOBRYNIN
*Acting Chairman of the delegation
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
to the thirty-first session
of the General Assembly*

ANNEX

Proposal by the Soviet Union concerning a settlement in the Middle East and the Geneva Peace Conference

Among the complex international problems requiring a solution in the interests of the preservation and strengthening of peace, the problem of a Middle East settlement is particularly acute. The red-hot tension in the Middle East is not abating. The situation in this region is extremely precarious and unstable. At any moment there may be a new military outburst there.

The peoples of the Middle East countries are living in a state of uncertainty, under a permanent threat to their security.

They are being prevented from devoting their efforts to peaceful construction and the improvement of living conditions. Attempts are being made to keep the Arab people of Palestine in the position of an exiled people.

The entire course of events in the Middle East in recent years demonstrates one fact. There cannot and will not be peace in this region until the causes which gave rise to the Middle East conflict have been removed: the occupation of the Arab territories by Israel, the denial of their inalienable rights to the Palestine Arab people and the continuing state of war. It is impossible to hope that it will be sufficient to eliminate any one particular individual hotbed of armed conflict in order to restore peace in the Middle East.

The tragic events in Lebanon provide a very clear confirmation of all this. The Lebanese crisis could not have arisen if a comprehensive political settlement had been achieved in the Middle East. There is another undeniable fact: if there had been such a settlement, or if serious efforts had been made to achieve one, it would have been easier to find a solution to the problems rending this small Middle Eastern country.

Only those who are trying, for their own narrow ends, to preserve the existing situation in the Middle East can oppose a broad political settlement or work against its achievement.

It is the conviction of the Soviet Union that the situation in the Middle East requires urgent measures capable of achieving a change from war to peace.

* Circulated under the double symbol A/31/257-S/12208.