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Supplemental information

1. On a number of occasions, in both oral statements and in written reports to the Security Council, I have referred to the question of the return of UNTSO and its Chief of Staff, General Bull, to their long-established Headquarters at Government House, Jerusalem, which has been under Israel military control since 5 June 1967. (See S/7930, 5 June, paras. 12 and 13; S/7930/Add.3, 11 June, para. 4, page 5, sub-para. 7 and page 6, sub-para. 3, and end of para. 4; S/7930/Add.4, 12 June, para. 8; S/7930/Add.5, 12 June, para. 4; S/7930/Add.6, 13 June, para. 4; S/7930/Add.7, 14 June, para. 1 (ii).)
2. On 28 June 1967 I addressed the following note to the Permanent Representative of Israel:

"The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations and has the honour to refer once again to the urgent matter of the return of UNTSO to its Headquarters at Government House in Jerusalem.

"The Permanent Representative will recall that the Foreign Minister of Israel during his discussion with the Secretary-General on the evening of Thursday, 22 June, assured the Secretary-General that a reply from his Government on the question of UNTSO's return to Government House would be presented to the Secretary-General 'in a day or two'. It was also indicated by the Foreign Minister at that time that it was thought that the matter could be dealt with by an exchange of letters in which the Government of Israel would make clear its position that UNTSO's sole concern and function now should be with the recent cease-fire resolutions of the Security Council and no longer with the Armistice Agreements and the now obsolete arrangements of the past. The Secretary-General, it will also be recalled, responded that he could and would take note of these views of Israel but clearly he could not take a position which would be prejudicial to any Security Council resolution, past or present.

"In view of the fact that the functioning of UNTSO continues to be handicapped by being deprived of its long-established Headquarters, the Secretary-General must regard this as a matter of real urgency. He is obliged, therefore, to ask the Government of Israel to expedite its reply to his several appeals on this matter, particularly since the outcome is of concern to the Security Council to which the Secretary-General is obliged to report about it.

"The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representative of Israel the assurances of his highest consideration."

3. Ensuing consultations have led to an exchange of letters by which UNTSO and its Chief of Staff will now be enabled to regain their Headquarters for their exclusive use without further delay. These letters from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the Secretary-General and from the Secretary-General to the Permanent Representative of Israel are dated 29 June 1967 and 1 July 1967 respectively, and were exchanged on the morning of 4 July 1967. Their texts are as follows:

Letter from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the  
Secretary-General, dated 29 June 1967:

"Excellency,

"I have the honour to refer to your telegram to the Prime Minister of 13 June 1967 in connexion with Government House, Jerusalem, and to transmit you the following reply.

"As you reported to the 1347th meeting of the Security Council on 5 June, the Government House area, in which the UNTSO was accommodated, was first attacked and occupied by Jordanian troops as part of the Jordanian aggression against Israel, when they commenced their hostilities in Jerusalem on 5 June. This produced an extremely disturbing security situation in Jerusalem and compelled the Government of Israel to take countermeasures to dislodge the Jordanian troops from the Government House area and to ensure that they would not return there.

"In the course of the fighting, the building was severely damaged. While the area was still under heavy Jordanian fire, the Israel Forces helped to evacuate General Bull and his staff to a place of safety in Jerusalem. After the cease-fire between Israel and Jordan became effective, Israeli authorities in Jerusalem undertook the necessary work to clear away the debris and to repair the damage.

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"Subsequently, the Government of Israel, as you are aware, did its utmost in the difficult circumstances prevailing in the aftermath of the fighting to make adequate facilities available to General Bull and his staff to enable him to discharge the functions placed upon him following the Security Council resolutions 233, 234, 235 and 236 of 1967. These included housing and office accommodation and facilities for communications. It remains the policy of the Government of Israel to continue to make these facilities available to General Bull for that purpose.

"However, since you believe that the facilities now available to General Bull are inadequate for him to carry out his functions under the recent cease-fire resolutions, the Government of Israel agrees to enable him and his staff to use Government House in the performance of their duties.

"It is understood that in the view of the Government of Israel, the sole function and concern of General Bull and his staff is with those cease-fire resolutions of the Security Council and no longer with the General Armistice Agreements and the now obsolete arrangements of the past.

"Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Gideon RAFAEL  
Permanent Representative"

Letter from the Secretary-General to the Permanent  
Representative of Israel, dated 1 July 1967:

"Sir,

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 29 June 1967, replying to my message to the Prime Minister of Israel of 13 June, asking him to facilitate the return of UNTSO and its Chief of Staff to their Headquarters at Government House, Jerusalem.

"As you are aware, I have attached great urgency to this matter because the functioning of this important United Nations operation continues to be handicapped through being deprived of the facilities essential to the performance of its duties which are fully available only at its Government House Headquarters. It is reassuring, therefore, to have your Government's favourable response to the request made in my message to the Prime Minister of 13 June, a message which also reiterated my original request in my approach of 5 June. This is especially so in the light of the vital work being required of this United Nations operation in connexion with the current cease-fire as set forth in

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paragraph 5 of the Security Council resolution of 12 June 1967, and the reporting responsibility required of the Secretary-General in the Council's resolutions of 6, 7 and 9 June. I take it that the return of the Chief of Staff, General Bull, and his staff to the exclusive use on behalf of the United Nations of their Headquarters at Government House will now take place without further delay.

"The specific views of your Government as set forth in the last paragraph of your letter, have been noted.

"Solely from a practical standpoint, of course, it may be said that UNTSO's primary purpose in the area at this time is to do and to be enabled to do all that it can toward maintaining quiet and averting any resumption of hostilities in the region.

"The subject of this correspondence being a matter of concern to the Security Council, it is my intention to inform the Council at an early date of your favourable response to my request and I assume that you would have no objection to the inclusion in that report of the full text of your letter to me of 29 June as well as of this reply.

"Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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4. As indicated in the Secretary-General's letter to the Permanent Representative of Israel, the specific views of the Government of Israel with regard to the functions and status of UNTSO have been noted only without any appraisal or expression of opinion on them by the Secretary-General.
5. The return of UNTSO to its Headquarters will greatly facilitate its work, although in the Government House compound the main building and other structures suffered considerable damage during the fighting and there was subsequent damage to and loss of United Nations records, vehicles, equipment and other property as well as personal belongings of staff members through looting and acts of vandalism. General Bull has been advised of the accord and it is assumed that he will return promptly to his Headquarters.

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