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REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE PROGRESS
OF THE EFFORTS OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE MIDDLE EAST

1. On 22 December 1967, in pursuance of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, I submitted to the Security Council a report (S/8309) on the progress of the efforts of the Special Representative to the Middle East, Ambassador Gunnar Jarring. The purpose of the present report is to cover his activities since 22 December 1967.
2. On 26 December 1967 Ambassador Jarring left his Headquarters in Nicosia for Jerusalem, from where he went to Cairo on 27 December, returning to Nicosia on 30 December. On 3 January 1968 he visited Jerusalem again, returning to Nicosia on 4 January. On 7 January he went back to Jerusalem and on the same day to Amman. After returning to Nicosia on 10 January, Ambassador Jarring paid a one-day visit to Beirut on the following day. On 16 January he went again to Jerusalem and on the same day to Cairo, from where he intends to return to Nicosia on the afternoon of 18 January.
3. It would be premature at this time for me to report to the Council on the substance of Ambassador Jarring's talks thus far with the Governments concerned, since these talks are continuing at the wish of the parties and have not reached the stage at which any conclusions can be drawn. It may, however, be stated in general that the talks have covered two types of questions. The first of these is concerned with the large and fundamental problems, which are of course the most difficult ones and which are referred to in Security Council resolution 242 of 22 November 1967. The second type of questions are the kind of secondary problems, the solution of which would contribute to an improvement of the general atmosphere by relieving certain unnecessary hardships which have essentially resulted from the hostilities in June 1967. Such questions include the release of the ships stranded in the Suez Canal, the exchange of prisoners of war and certain measures of a humanitarian character.

4. Ambassador Jarring has been in regular communication with me throughout the talks and keeps me fully informed. He sees no need to return to New York for consultations at this stage of his mission, nor do I.
 5. It is pertinent to note that the courtesy and willingness to co-operate on the part of all the Governments visited, which was reported in my first report (S/8309), have continued to prevail. Ambassador Jarring also reports that all of the Governments visited have expressed positive reactions concerning the desirability of continued steps to improve the general atmosphere while at the same time searching for solutions to the fundamental problems. The Governments visited have also expressed the wish that the round of talks with Ambassador Jarring should continue, and he and I both take the same position. At the same time we are mindful of the time factor.
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