



# UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



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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 29 July 1968, in pursuance of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, I submitted to the Security Council a fourth report (S/8309/Add.3) on the progress of the efforts of the Special Representative to the Middle East, Ambassador Gunnar Jarring. This report covers his activities after 29 July.
2. In accordance with the intention announced in the previous report, Ambassador Jarring arrived in Nicosia on 15 August 1968 for a further round of discussions with Governments concerned. In the course of his stay in the Middle East he met with Jordanian representatives on 16 and 30 August, with representatives of the United Arab Republic on 17 and 29 August, with the Lebanese representatives on 19 August and with those of Israel on 21 and 28 August and on 11 September. The discussions were at that stage interrupted and Ambassador Jarring returned to Headquarters, where he arrived on 23 September.
3. With the arrival of foreign ministers of the parties for the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, Ambassador Jarring began a series of frequent meetings with them individually, which were at first mainly of an informal nature, but which, following the delivery by the foreign ministers of their speeches in the general debate, assumed a more formal character and concluded with written communications from the foreign ministers of Israel and of the United Arab Republic restating the positions of their respective Governments. In November, the foreign ministers returned to their countries. Before departing, they repeated the readiness of their Governments to continue to co-operate with Ambassador Jarring and to enter into further discussions with him when he may deem it appropriate.

4. In this regard I received from Ambassador Jarring, on the eve of his departure for his headquarters in Nicosia, a letter concerning his immediate plans. This letter and my reply are set forth below:

- (a) Letter dated 26 November 1968 addressed to the Secretary-General by Ambassador Jarring

"Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

As we agreed, I leave New York on 27 November 1968 for a further round of talks in the Middle East, beginning with a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel on 2 December 1968, followed by meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Republic and Jordan later on.

I would like to inform you that I have in mind to invite the parties to a new round of discussions in the middle of January 1969 in order to give them time for reflexion and for careful consideration of their respective positions.

Pending this next round of meetings, it is my intention to return to Moscow and to resume, for the time being, my duties as Ambassador of Sweden to the Soviet Union.

Yours sincerely,

Gunnar JARRING  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General  
to the Middle East"

(b) Letter dated 27 November 1968 addressed to Ambassador Jarring by  
the Secretary-General

"Dear Ambassador Jarring,

I concur fully in the programme for the coming weeks set forth in your letter to me of 26 November 1968. I find that it follows the lines which had been mentioned in our recent talks.

It is with gratification that I note your willingness, for the time being, at least, to carry on as my Special Representative in the Middle East and to pursue your efforts with the parties toward a peaceful settlement of the issues between them.

This letter affords me a further opportunity to express to you my complete satisfaction with the way in which you have been discharging your responsibilities in your extremely difficult and delicate assignment and my admiration for the sterling qualities of wisdom, tact and patience you have brought to it. In this regard, I may also commend you for your sound judgement and fine sense of timing which you have demonstrated in taking initiatives and considering new ones, which, in the nature of the case, must remain strictly within the realm of quiet diplomacy.

If you see no objection, I propose to include your letter and this reply in a forthcoming short and purely factual report to the Security Council.

I renew to you my hopes and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

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