

ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: Egyptian and Israeli military representatives met again Monday at Kilometer 101 on the Cairo-Suez road. Following the session, initial press accounts said Israel had relinquished control of the Kilometer 101 checkpoint to UN forces, but according to later stories published in Cairo, the Egyptians claim the attempt to implement the cease-fire agreement at Kilometer 101 had broken down and had "reached a crisis stage." Egyptian Government sources charged that Israeli troops refused to pull back from the checkpoint. The semiofficial Cairo newspaper Al Ahram reported today that Egypt might refer the matter to the UN Secretary General.

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Regarding the checkpoints on the Cairo-Suez road, the Israelis reportedly are taking the position that UN forces will be permitted to be stationed alongside Israeli soldiers, but not as replacements for them. The Egyptians maintain that the six-point agreement does not provide simultaneous stationing of Israeli and UN forces at the checkpoints.

Israel reacted forcefully to the establishment of a UN checkpoint at the northwestern edge of Suez city late Monday afternoon. The Israelis told the UN contingent--made up of Finns--to abandon the checkpoint, and threatened to use force if this was not done within 15 minutes. After 25 minutes, Israeli soldiers entered the site, pulled down the UN flag, overturned the UN tent, and threatened to burn UN documents.

Tel Aviv subsequently acknowledged dismantling the UN post, but contended that the installation was a roadblock rather than a checkpoint and that it cut off the Israeli checkpoint at Suez from Israeli forces to the west. The Israelis appear to be claiming that the UN attempted to establish the post at a point not called for in the Egyptian-Israeli agreement. Minister of Defense Dayan later invited General Siilasvuo, the UN commander, to meet with him in Tel Aviv today "in order to avoid misunderstandings and incidents" in the operation of the UN Emergency Force. Siilasvuo replied that he was unable to go to Tel Aviv, but was prepared to meet Dayan or his representative in Suez city.

Israeli Transport Minister Peres announced yesterday that Israel would soon test the Egyptian blockade of the Bab al-Mandab by sending a ship through the

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southern entrance to the Red Sea. The Israelis have continued to hit hard at this issue; both Prime Minister Meir and Deputy Prime Minister Allon have emphasized that the cease-fire is not a cease-fire without an end to hostile acts at sea as well as on land.

Mrs. Meir touched on other issues connected with negotiations at a press conference before her departure from the Socialist International meeting in London on Monday. Although she urged early direct talks, she also noted that her interpretation of negotiations does not exclude the presence of outside powers at a peace conference. She repeated Israel's opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and its determination to retain control of Jerusalem--where all religions would have freedom to administer their own holy places.

Reports of continued clashes marred the cease-fire on both fronts yesterday. Sporadic exchanges of artillery and small arms fire took place in the area on both sides of the Suez Canal.

Radio Jerusalem charged the Egyptians with two violations of the cease-fire along the canal.

The US Consulate in Jerusalem reports that the Syrians have established a salient into Israeli lines west of Sasa. According to the report, the Israelis are attempting to liquidate the salient, and on 11-12 November small arms and artillery fire were reported in the area.

According to press accounts, Yasir Arafat, Fatah leader and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman, arrived in Moscow on Sunday night. Arafat will reportedly be joined for talks with high Soviet officials by the top leaders of all the fedayeen organizations represented in the PLO. The Beirut press

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is suggesting the discussions in Moscow are a follow-up to the Soviet-fedayeen dialogue in late October on the subjects of participation by the PLO in post-war negotiations and the concept of an independent Palestinian state. Arafat met with Syrian, Iraqi, Saudi, and Egyptian leaders before leaving for Moscow.

The US Embassy in Beirut believes that Fatah and other fedayeen organizations support the PLO's participation in peace talks--or that they would go along under pressure from some Arab governments and the Soviet Union--should an invitation be forthcoming. The Embassy also believes a consensus is developing among the fedayeen in favor of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza.

Today's edition of Cairo's Al Ahram says that an agreement has been reached to hold an Arab summit meeting in Algiers, probably on 28 November. We cannot confirm the report. A meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab League states has been called for 24 November in Cairo, according to the Middle East News Agency.

Secretary General Waldheim reported to the Security Council yesterday on the development of the United Nations Emergency Force. The force now has 1,600 troops in place. Waldheim announced that Kenya and Senegal have been invited to join the 11 states that have already agreed to provide soldiers. If Kenya and Senegal each provide a battalion, the Emergency Force will total little more than half its 7,000-man goal. Negotiations on the remaining national contingents are likely to be protracted, in view of the proviso that the Security Council take "balanced geographic representation" into account in fielding the force.

Meanwhile, the UN force in the Middle East continues to be hampered by shortages. Delays in the Soviet airlift of reinforcements and equipment from Helsinki have caused particular difficulties for the Finnish contingent serving in the area of Suez city.

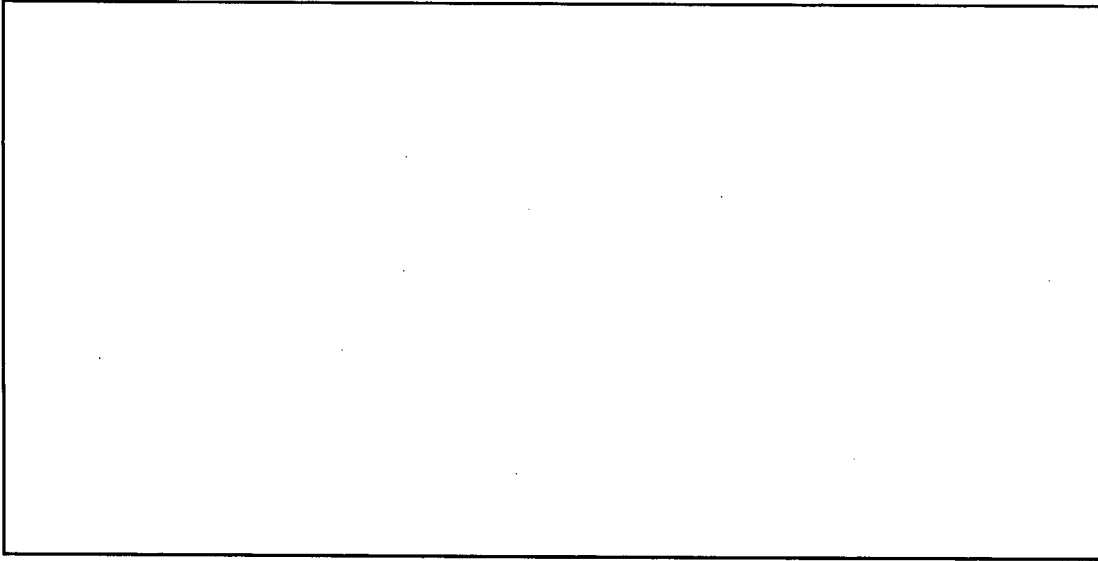
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The Emergency Force also faces a possible financial crisis; Waldheim again appealed yesterday to UN members for advance contributions to fund the peacekeeping operation. The UN has no cash resources to meet the growing expenses of the force, and has made little progress toward creating a special assessment fund.



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