

ISRAEL-UAR BORDER SITUATION

- I. Fighting which broke out last week along Israel-Syrian border appears primarily a product of irritations in an old trouble spot, plus Israeli frustration with UN's ineffectiveness.
- A. Immediate cause of incidents--which included an air skirmish, artillery barrages, and a night raid by Israeli forces on an empty Arab village--is continued ignoring by Arab farmers of Israel's claim to administer demilitarized zones along border.
1. UN's interpretation of 1949 armistice agreement is that Israel does not have authority over these zones and that Arab farmers are generally within their rights.
- B. Despite a truce arranged by UN officers on 1 February, sporadic firing still taking place.
- II. Neither Israel nor UAR seems to be trying to expand incidents into a war, although further fighting in local area is likely.
- A. Israel has reinforced its border troops with at least an infantry brigade, plus some armor and heavy artillery (3,500 men); reinforcements were not in combat positions as of late 2 February, however. 25X1
- B. Nasir has moved troops into Sinai, but the spate of publicity released on these movements suggests that they are primarily for propaganda effect.
- C. Other Arab states have stayed out, and the UN Emergency Force in Sinai (5,051 men) has not been involved.
- D. UN has ordered both sides to withdraw troops from the disputed zone, and Hammarskjold says he will call a Security Council Council meeting if they do not comply.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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