

COPY

UNITED NATIONS
TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANISATION

Jerusalem, 14 October 1953

Dear Mr. Minister,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13 October and I am ready, as agreed, to meet with you in your office on Thursday, October 15, at 10:00 a.m.

I must admit that up to now I have not been aware of any formal offer on behalf of the Government of Israel "to authorize a temporary suspension of the work in the Demilitarized Zone of reasonably short duration". A study of the transcript of our meeting on 28 September seems to me to confirm my understanding that no such offer was made to me on that occasion.

I recall very well your statement - quoted on page 2 of the transcript - that if I had said that I would like a temporary suspension of the work to investigate certain aspects "that would be an entirely different situation from that created by your first letter." I recall furthermore your observation - page 3 of the transcript - that "the whole idea of a temporary suspension of work is not such as to make us faint, we have done it before". But I fail to see how these observations or any other of your observations constituted an offer of the Government of Israel to authorize a temporary suspension of that work, particularly in view of your statement - also page 3 of the transcript - that "we do not think that a request for even a suspension is justified in this case - that is suspension for a fixed period and for a definite purpose. We feel convinced that there is no case for even such suspension".

However, as matters have developed since my decision, it seems to me that the very grounds which, in your opinion, would have justified a temporary suspension of the work no longer exist today. Whilst originally some doubts did exist as to the ownership of the land on which the work started, this question has in the meantime been clarified, as will be seen from the attached memorandum, dated 13 October 1953, dealing with the question of land ownership in the area of the present work site of the Banat Yaacov Canal Project. This memorandum which contains the results of the investigations by U.N. observers in the Safad Land Office makes it quite clear that work in connection with the canal was started in September on duly registered Arab-owned land.

Yours sincerely

Major General Vagn Bennike
Chief of Staff

His Excellency Mr. Moshe Sharett
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Government of Israel.

TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION

Jerusalem, 14 October 1953.

D/632503

Dear Mr. Minister,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13 October and I am ready, as agreed, to meet with you in your office on Thursday, October 15, at 10:00 a.m.

I must admit that up to now I have not been aware of any formal offer on behalf of the Government of Israel "to authorize a temporary suspension of the work in the Demilitarized Zone of reasonably short duration". A study of the transcript of our meeting on 28 September seems to me to confirm my understanding that no such offer was made to me on that occasion.

I recall very well your statement - quoted on page 2 of the transcript - that if I had said that I would like a temporary suspension of the work to investigate certain aspects "that would be an entirely different situation from that created by your first letter." I recall furthermore your observation - page 3 of the transcript - that "the whole idea of a temporary suspension of work is not such as to make us faint, we have done it before". But I fail to see how these observations or any other of your observations constituted an offer of the Government of Israel to authorize a temporary suspension of that work, particularly in view of your statement - also page 3 of the transcript - that "we do not think that a request for even a suspension is justified in this case - that is suspension for a fixed period and for a definite purpose. We feel convinced that there is no case for even such suspension".


However, as matters have developed since my decision, it seems to me that the very grounds which, in your opinion, would have justified a temporary suspension of the work no longer exist today. Whilst originally some doubts did exist as to the ownership of the land on which the work started,

/ this question



this question has in the meantime been clarified, as will be seen from the attached memorandum, dated 13 October 1953, dealing with the question of land ownership in the area of the present work site of the Banat Yaacov Canal Project. This memorandum which contains the results of the investigations by U.N. observers in the Safad Land Office makes it quite clear that work in connection with the canal was started in September on duly registered Arab-owned land.

Yours sincerely,


Major General Vagn Bennike
Chief of Staff

His Excellency Mr. Moshe Sharett,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Government of Israel.

COPY

UNITED NATIONS
TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANISATION

Jerusalem, 14 October 1953

Dear Mr. Minister,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13 October and I am ready, as agreed, to meet with you in your office on Thursday, October 15, at 10:00 a.m.

I must admit that up to now I have not been aware of any formal offer on behalf of the Government of Israel "to authorize a temporary suspension of the work in the Demilitarized Zone of reasonably short duration". A study of the transcript of our meeting on 28 September seems to me to confirm my understanding that no such offer was made to me on that occasion.

I recall very well your statement - quoted on page 2 of the transcript - that if I had said that I would like a temporary suspension of the work to investigate certain aspects "that would be an entirely different situation from that created by your first letter." I recall furthermore your observation - page 3 of the transcript - that "the whole idea of a temporary suspension of work is not such as to make us faint, we have done it before". But I fail to see how these observations or any other of your observations constituted an offer of the Government of Israel to authorize a temporary suspension of that work, particularly in view of your statement - also page 3 of the transcript - that "we do not think that a request for even a suspension is justified in this case - that is suspension for a fixed period and for a definite purpose. We feel convinced that there is no case for even such suspension".

However, as matters have developed since my decision, it seems to me that the very grounds which, in your opinion, would have justified a temporary suspension of the work no longer exist today. Whilst originally some doubts did exist as to the ownership of the land on which the work started, this question has in the meantime been clarified, as will be seen from the attached memorandum, dated 13 October 1953, dealing with the question of land ownership in the area of the present work site of the Banat Yaasev Canal Project. This memorandum which contains the results of the investigations by U.N. observers in the Safad Land Office makes it quite clear that work in connection with the canal was started in September on duly registered Arab-owned land.

Yours sincerely

Major General Vagn Bennike
Chief of Staff

His Excellency Mr. Moshe Sharett
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Government of Israel.

C
O
P
Y

UNITED NATIONS
TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION

Jerusalem, 14 October 1953.

682503

Dear Mr. Minister,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 13 October and I am ready, as agreed, to meet with you in your office on Thursday, October 15, at 10:00 a.m.

I must admit that up to now I have not been aware of any formal offer on behalf of the Government of Israel "to authorize a temporary suspension of the work in the Demilitarized Zone of reasonably short duration". A study of the transcript of our meeting on 28 September seems to me to confirm my understanding that no such offer was made to me on that occasion.

I recall very well your statement - quoted on page 2 of the transcript - that if I had said that I would like a temporary suspension of the work to investigate certain aspects "that would be an entirely different situation from that created by your first letter." I recall furthermore your observation - page 3 of the transcript - that "the whole idea of a temporary suspension of work is not such as to make us faint, we have done it before". But I fail to see how these observations or any other of your observations constituted an offer of the Government of Israel to authorize a temporary suspension of that work, particularly in view of your statement - also page 3 of the transcript - that "we do not think that a request for even a suspension is justified in this case - that is suspension for a fixed period and for a definite purpose. We feel convinced that there is no case for even such suspension".

However, as matters have developed since my decision, it seems to me that the very grounds which, in your opinion, would have justified a temporary suspension of the work no longer exist today. Whilst originally some doubts did exist as to the ownership of the land on which the work started, this question has in the meantime been clarified, as will be seen from the attached memorandum, dated 13 October 1953, dealing with the question of land ownership in the ~~xxx~~ area of the present work site of the Banat Yaacov Canal Project. This memorandum which contains the results of the investigations by U.N. observers in the Safad L. Office makes it quite clear that work in connection with the canal was started in September on duly registered Arab-owned land.

Yours sincerely

Major General Vagn Bennike
Chief of Staff

His Excellency Mr. Moshe Sharett
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Government of Israel.