

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/7930/Add.27
11 August 1967

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Supplemental Information

Interim Report on Government House

1. On 4 July 1967, I informed the Security Council (S/7930/Add.20) of an exchange of letters between the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations and myself "by which UNTSO and its Chief of Staff will be enabled to regain their Headquarters for their exclusive use without further delay". Pursuant to this exchange of letters, General Bull, on the following day, inquired of the Government of Israel whether preliminary arrangements for the return of UNTSO could be started on 6 July and expressed his intention to move with his staff to the Headquarters on Monday, 10 July 1967. To this inquiry no response was received by General Bull.
2. Consequently, I again entered into consultations with the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, and now wish to submit this interim report to the Security Council on the result of these consultations.
3. As a result of these consultations, Israel now proposes that on the basis of the exchange of letters between the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations and myself, as reported to the Security Council on 4 July 1967 (S/7930/Add.20), Government House and a surrounding area of approximately 44 dunams would be returned as the Headquarters of the Chief of Staff of UNTSO. The area which Israel offers to return will include the buildings and approximately one third of the area included in the Government House premises as constituted when UNTSO was forced to evacuate them on 5 June 1967.
4. The Chief of Staff of UNTSO, after inspecting the Government House compound, has stated that from a practical point of view he could operate in this reduced area provided that the antennae and the VHF building and mast, which are outside the area offered for return, would remain available in their present locations to UNTSO and that unrestricted access to and adequate protection of these installations and communications lines be ensured. Israel has given this assurance.

5. Israel has also given assurances that it would make no military use of the area not now being offered for return.

6. The Government House compound has been occupied continuously as United Nations premises and Headquarters of UNTSO in the demilitarized zone since October 1948, when the International Red Cross, in pursuance of an agreement made with the Mandatory Power, transferred possession of the area to the United Nations. I consider and have maintained that the United Nations is entitled to the return of the premises of Government House exactly as they were constituted on 5 June 1967 and that it has the right to exclusive and undisturbed occupancy and possession of the full Government House compound.

7. As I have previously emphasized, there is an urgent need for the immediate return of the Chief of Staff of UNTSO to his Headquarters. General Bull and his staff continue to labour under the most serious handicaps due to the lack of the facilities normally available to them at Government House. The situation may soon become even more critical as UNTSO must vacate its temporary offices in the YMCA since that institution has pressing need of the space.

8. Solely because of the urgent need of the Chief of Staff for the facilities at Government House, which are not available elsewhere in the area, I am considering, as a first tentative step, and on the basis of the exchange of correspondence between the Permanent Representative of Israel and the Secretary-General of 4 July 1967 (see document S/7930/Add.20), authorizing the Chief of Staff of UNTSO and his staff to return immediately to that part of the Government House premises now offered by the Government of Israel, without prejudice to all rights and claims of the United Nations to the occupancy and possession of the whole of the premises.

