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**VIENNA INTERNATIONAL
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18 - 21 October 2010

Preparation Paper

The Security Council 5 June 1967

Decision on Israel

A General Overview

Today is June 5 1967. War broke out between Israel and its neighboring states: the United Arab Republic (UAR), Jordan, and Syria.

After the 1956 Suez Crisis, Egypt agreed to the stationing of a United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Sinai to ensure all parties would comply with the 1949 Armistice Agreements. Many minor events between the borders of Israel and its neighbouring arab countries, have occurred since 1956 that lead up to this war today. In November 1966, Syria signed a mutual defense agreement with Egypt. Further, Israel attacked the city of as-Samu in the Jordanian-occupied West Bank. King Hussein of Jordan criticized Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser for failing to come to Jordan's aid.

On May 15, Israel's Independence Day, Egyptian troops began moving into the Sinai and massing near the Israeli border. By May 18, Syrian troops were prepared for battle along the Golan Heights.

Nasser ordered the UN Emergency Force (UNEF), stationed in the Sinai since 1956 as a buffer between Israeli and Egyptian forces after Israel's withdrawal following the Sinai Campaign, to withdraw on May 16. Without bringing the matter to the attention of the General Assembly (as his predecessor had promised), Secretary-General U Thant complied with the demand. After the withdrawal of the UNEF, the Voice of the Arabs radio station proclaimed on May 18, 1967:

„As of today, there no longer exists an international emergency force to protect Israel. We shall exercise patience no more. We shall not complain any more to the UN about Israel. The sole method we shall apply against Israel is total war, which will result in the extermination of Zionist existence.“

Following that, on May 20 Syrian Defense Minister Hafez Assad said:

„Our forces are now entirely ready not only to repulse the aggression, but to initiate the act of liberation itself, and to explode the Zionist presence in the Arab homeland. The Syrian army, with its finger on the trigger, is united....I, as a military man, believe that the time has come to enter into a battle of annihilation.“

On May 22, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to all Israeli shipping and all ships bound for Eilat. This blockade cut off Israel's only supply route with Asia and stopped the flow of oil from its main supplier, Iran.

Nasser was aware of the pressure he was exerting to force Israel's hand, and challenged Israel to fight almost daily. The day after the blockade was set up, he said defiantly: "The Jews threaten to make war. I reply: Welcome! We are ready for war."

Nasser challenged Israel to fight almost daily. "Our basic objective will be the destruction of Israel. The Arab people want to fight," he said on May 27. The following day, he added: "We will not accept any...coexistence with Israel...Today the issue is not the establishment of peace between the Arab states and Israel....The war with Israel is in effect since 1948."

King Hussein of Jordan signed a defense pact with Egypt on May 30. Nasser then announced: The armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are poised on the borders of Israel...to face the challenge, while standing behind us are the armies of Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan and the whole Arab nation. This act will astound the world. Today they will know that the Arabs are arranged for battle, the critical hour has arrived. We have reached the stage of serious action and not declarations.

President Abdur Rahman Aref of Iraq joined in the war of words: "The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. This is our opportunity to wipe out the ignominy, which has been with us since 1948. Our goal is clear -- to wipe Israel off the map." On June 4, Iraq joined the military alliance with Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The Arab rhetoric was matched by the mobilization of Arab forces. Approximately 465,000 troops, more than 2,800 tanks, and 800 aircraft ringed Israel.

Israel decided to preempt the expected Arab attack. On June 5, Prime Minister Eshkol gave the order to attack Egypt.

Timeline

135 AD	expulsion of Jews from their homeland
18th century	Development of Zionism in Europe: Theodor Herzl's dream of creating a Jewish state
1920	Balfour Declaration
1920	Mandate over Palestine is handed over to the UK
1947	UK cannot solve the Arab-Israeli conflict – UN resolution 181 of 1947: Partition Plan by the UN-GA - rejected by Arab states
May 15 1948- February 24 1949	1st Middle East War (War of Independence)
July 26 1956	Suez Crisis: President of the United Arab Republic of Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalizes the Suez Channel
October 29 1956	Israel invades the Sinai Peninsula and calls it preemptive self-defense
October 30 1956	Israel invades Sharm-el-Sheikh to regain access to the Straights of Tiran
October 31 1956	France and the UK start a bombing campaign against Egypt
1964	Water dispute between Israel and the Arab Countries (Headwater division plan)
1965	Perpetual Israeli attack on the water division works in Syria
January 1965	Beginning of guerrilla operation on the Jordan/Israeli border
November 4 1966	Mutual defense pact between Egypt and Syria
November 11 1966	Israeli soldiers fall victim to a landmine planted by a militia group from Es Samu in the Israeli/Jordan border region
November 12 1966	King Hussein airs his condolence for the incident
November 13 1966	The Israeli Defence Force attack Es Samu as a revenge act for the incident - Resulted in UN-SC resolution 228
April 7 1967	Air battle between Israel and Syria over the Golan Heights
May 13 1967	Egyptian President Nasser receives misinformation from the Soviet Union about the stationing of Israeli troops on the Israeli/Syrian border
May 16 1967	Nasser deports his troops to the Sinai peninsula close to the Israeli border
May 19 1967	Nasser expels the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) from Sinai and the Gaza Strip and substituted the troops with Egyptian forces
May 22-23 1967	Nasser closes the Straits of Tiran and thus denies Israeli shipping
May 30 1967	Defense pact between Jordan and Egypt
May 31 1967	Start of deployment of Iraqi troops in Jordan
June 1 1967	Formation of National Unity Government by Israel
June 4 1967	Decision to go to war
June 5 1967	start of the Six Day War and assumed start of our conference simulation

Recommended Reading

Articles:

- http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/may/30/newsid_2493000/2493177.stm
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