

June 15, 1967

Secret

MEMORANDUM

Visit to military governor's office in Gaza

On June 14, in the afternoon, I accompanied Mr. Yaakov Avnon on a journey to Gaza, to have the UNRWA director sign the agreement with the Government of Israel.

After the agreement was signed, a discussion was held with Lieutenant Colonel Gaon, a staff officer for military government affairs. The following are the main points of the discussion as expressed by Lieut. Col. Gaon:

a) On the 12th or 13th of the month, a mine exploded near Gaza. The investigation revealed the mine had been laid shortly before it exploded. The tracks led to several homes in the "Al-Tarabsheh" (?) refugee camp. The occupants of said homes were told to point out the people who had done the deed. Some time later, 110 people turned up, identifying themselves as soldiers of the Palestine Liberation Army and collectively took the blame. They did not heed the pleas to point out who among them had carried out the deed.

They were given three hours to name the perpetrators, otherwise they would be punished. When they did not respond by the ultimatum's deadline, a decision was made to remove them to the Sinai desert and leave them be! The punishment seems to have been implemented since. The military also blew up eight homes to which the tracks led.

b) Military government personnel now have a list of 6,000 names of people belonging to the Palestinian Liberation Army in the Gaza Strip. No decision has been made yet on how to handle this case. Once a decision is made to arrest them, they would have to be fed and clothed. Moreover, their status is not clear. Prisoners of war? Or gang members, obviously? The military government is still debating the issue.

c) The military government appealed to residents of the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip to surrender all their weapons. The call was not heeded. Therefore, the military government contacted the local UNRWA representative and asked him to name a warehouse where people who have weapons could place them anonymously during the night, without an interrogation. They hope this system will prove more effective.

d) On the assumption that members of the Egyptian military had hidden in homes and refugee camps, a call was made to all camp residents to turn in any such soldiers. There has been no response yet.

e) Prior to this, Lieutenant Padan from the military government (who, according to the name [sic], handles public liaison and advocacy) made a request to receive training on the messaging and lines of argument to be employed with respect to the residents. He asked for a meeting, if possible, with Mr. Shaul Bar-Haim and other figures who could give him guidance on the issue. He was promised his request would be brought to the people in charge.

Avner Arazi

CC:
Mr. A. Luria, Deputy Director General
Mr. Comay
Director General