



JERUSALEM

Jerusalem, 18th September 1970.

No.1265

Sir,

On instructions received from the Secretariat of State, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a message which the Holy Father has addressed to His Excellency Zalman Shazar, President of Israel.

A similar message, calling for continuing efforts and negotiations for peace, has been addressed to the President of the R.A.U. and to His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan.

I would ask you to pass the enclosed text to His Excellency Mr. Shazar.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to His Excellency the sentiments of my highest consideration.

Pio Laghi

Pio Laghi
Apostolic Delegate

Mr. Gideon Shomron
Director,
Office of the
President of Israel.



To His Excellency
SHNEOR ZALMAN SHAZAR
President of Israel

As the news of the truce and the first contacts at New York gave us ground for joyful hope, so we are deeply worried at the fresh difficulties which have now arisen.

Convinced as we are of the vital importance of a stable, peaceful and fair settlement, with the aim of preventing the rekindling of a conflict in which even more blood would be shed and which would be even more fraught with unforeseeable consequences, and deeply saddened at the sufferings of the peoples concerned, we feel impelled to turn to Your Excellency and to all those in other countries who have responsibility for making decisions in order to express our ardent desire that nothing be left undone to ensure the maintenance of the truce and to advance the talks.

Peace is so great and surpassing a blessing that it demands from every party a readiness to make sacrifices and to accept them with courageous farsightedness, for the sake of an agreement that will take account of all the demands of justice and humanity.

We are strengthened in our hope by the support given by



the agreement of men and women throughout the world, but in a special way we are given assurance by the prayerful thought which we keep turned to the Lord, the living fount of justice and peace, whose holy name of Father is called upon in your part of the world as elsewhere by so many millions of human beings who believe and hope in Him.

Vatican City, September 15, 1970

PAULUS PP. VI



משרד החוץ

ירושלים, ח' בחשרי חשל"א
8 באוקטובר 1970

אל : מר גדעון שומרון, מנהל לשכת נשיא המדינה, ירושלים
מאח: הממונה על עניינים כנסייתיים

הנדון: חשובה הנשיא לאפיפיור

... רצ"ב מצא-נא נוסח חשובה מאח הנשיא אל האפיפיור, -
לשדר מיום 15/9.

נוסח זה אושר ע"י הנהלת משרד החוץ.

מוצע כי הנשיא יזמין אליו אה נציג האפיפיור,
מונסיניור פיו לאגי, וימסור לידו אה החשובה באורח אישי.

הודיעני-נא!

בכרכת גמר חתימה טובה,

מיכאל פרגאי

לוטה.

Handwritten notes: 14-10-70-2, 2025, 15/10/70

To the Supreme Pontiff
POPE PAUL VI
Vatican City, Rome

I wish to express my appreciation of the message of 15 September 1970 delivered to me by His Excellency Monsignor Laghi and dealing with the situation in the Middle East. The profound hope for peace in this region therein expressed, recalls to me that notable visit of January 1964 to the Holy Land, while the concern now evoked by difficulties that have arisen in furtherance of the initiative recently undertaken by the United States to bring the conflict in the Middle East to a pacific settlement, is widely shared, and not least by the Government of Israel.

It will be recalled that an essential element in this initiative was the agreement of the parties to a military standstill along the Suez Canal. The mutual acceptance and observance of the standstill was the premise and foundation for any real progress in the peace contacts to be under the auspices of Ambassador Jarring. From its very first moment, to our dismay, the standstill has been and continues to be flagrantly and ominously flouted by the United Arab Republic.

With Soviet direction and support the U.A.R. has taken advantage of Israel's own observance of the cease-fire, to move forward battery after battery of deadly missiles ever closer to the Israel lines. This gross and continuing breach of solemn pledges is not only of the most serious import in purely military terms, but in so far as the possibility of negotiation is concerned it

destroys the barest minimum of confidence in the sincerity of the other party and the credibility to be attached to its undertakings.

That the missiles are still unretracted is the plain reason why the peace talks are in suspense. Israel is most eager to see the talks resumed, and with that objective in view is doing all in its power to bring about the re-positioning of the missiles in their original places. It believes that a joint and concerted effort to that end on the part of all men of goodwill might be of decisive significance in rendering possible the speedy resumption of the talks.

Israel wholeheartedly shares the hope that all parties involved will summon the courage and the perspicacity to usher in a new era of cooperation in the Middle East. That remains Israel's devout prayer and to that central objective Israel will continue to devote its unremitting efforts.

ZALMAN SHAZAR

Jerusalem, 14 October 1970.