

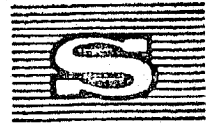
UNITED NATIONS  
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LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon on 26 January 1970 (S/9617).

The letter complains of an alleged Israeli attack on Lebanese territory on 25 January. The facts are different. On the night of 24/25 January, the Israeli village of Zar'it, situated on the cease-fire line, approximately 12 km from the Mediterranean coast, was shelled from inside Lebanon, apparently by irregular forces which use extensive parts of southern Lebanon as a base for aggression against Israel. The Israel Defence Forces returned fire in the direction of the attackers.

In this connexion, it will be noted that terror organizations frequently establish their bases for training and attack in Lebanese villages. The Government of Lebanon which allows this must bear full responsibility for the consequences.

Governmental complicity in the campaign of aggression waged from Lebanese territory against Israel is well known. It was recently reaffirmed by Lebanon's Prime Minister, Mr. Rashid Karame, when he declared on 19 January 1970, following a meeting with El Fatah's leader:

"At my meeting with Yasser Arafat, the present situation and the necessity to co-operate in the general interest were discussed."

Indeed, co-operation between the Lebanese authorities, including the Lebanese army, and the terror organizations has been widely reported by international media of information.

In recent months, and in particular in the wake of the Cairo agreement of 3 November 1969 which provided for co-operation between terror organizations and the Government of Lebanon, the latter has associated itself with the policy of active warfare against Israel pursued by other Arab States in violation of the cease-fire. The representative of Lebanon has now adopted also the language employed by Arab propaganda noted for its unbridled abuse, contempt for truth and a strange reliance on the gullibility of those to whom it is directed. To refer, as the Lebanese letter does, to the presence on Lebanese soil of terror organizations engaged in the murder of innocent Israeli civilians as the "presence of refugees on Lebanese soil", is the height of cynicism and insolence.

The letter from the representative of Lebanon seems to indicate that his Government would have armed attacks against Israel continue from Lebanese territory, while expecting Israel to refrain from taking defence measures. The Government of Lebanon is undoubtedly aware, however, that the Government of Israel, as any other Government, must protect its territory and its citizens. As emphasized in my previous letters to the President of the Security Council, the continuation of aggression from Lebanese territory has created an intolerable situation in which Israel must reserve its right to act in self-defence.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations

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