

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/9643*
9 February 1970

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, on instructions of my Government, to draw your urgent attention to the continuation and intensification of aggression by Israeli regular armed forces against Syria.

Contrary to the false allegations in the Israeli representative's letter to the President of the Security Council (S/9634) of 2 February 1970, the Israeli forces have commenced, since January of this year, a campaign of terror against Syrian civilian population and cities. In that month, their military planes crossed to Syria continuously, flying over Syrian cities, suddenly breaking through the sound barrier and producing a supersonic boom with the sole purpose of terrorizing the civilian populace.

Furthermore, their continued occupation of Syrian territory constitutes a constant, unabated aggression. It should be recalled that this occupation commenced after Syria had accepted the cease-fire on 9 June 1967. Israel continued to attack, and Security Council resolutions 235 (1967) of 9 June and 236 (1967) of 11 June 1967, both adopted unanimously, asking Israel to stop hostilities, were utterly disregarded; Israel thus repudiated the very basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Since then, Israel has effectually annexed and settled the occupied Syrian territories.

We have continuously reported to Your Excellency, as well as to the President of the Security Council, Israel's bulldozing of Syrian villages, eviction of Syrian civilian population and establishment of Israeli permanent settlements (Nahal). We have constantly protested these acts, which constitute international

* Also issued under the symbol A/7949.

piracy and the trampling down of the law of civilized nations. Suffice it to mention one of my latest letters to you (A/7689, S/9459), in which I reported the demolition and burning by Israeli occupying authorities of seventeen Syrian villages in the occupied territory, and the establishment there of ten Nahals.

Our pleas have met with nothing but scorn, and this has been the case with all other occupied territories in Jordan and the United Arab Republic. Indeed, Israeli leaders make no secret of their intentions of settling permanently the occupied territories. Following are but a few samples of the latest of such declarations by Israeli leaders.

1. According to the JTA Daily News Bulletin of 21 January 1970:

"ALLON SAYS PIONEER LABOUR YOUTH BUILT SETTLEMENTS WILL BE PART OF ISRAEL

"TEL AVIV, 20 Jan. (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon told a rally of pioneer labour youth here yesterday that wherever they establish settlements, that territory will be part of Israel. 'The land belongs to the people who live on it', Mr. Allon declared. The youngsters are members of Nahal, a para-military group that has already established settlements in the Golan Heights and the Sinai peninsula. As they reach induction age, they join Israel's regular armed services. Mr. Allon said Nahal settlements were important because they would block the enemy's advance in the event of a new war."

2. In The New York Times of 8 February 1970, Premier Golda Meir is quoted as follows:

"Her visitors had seen the Golan Heights the day before and Mrs. Meir asked, 'Shall we give them up?' She said that once you could look down on the Israeli settlements from what had been Syrian positions, their strategic value became apparent."

3. On 9 February, The New York Times reported an interview with Ben-Gurion:

"He also asserted that Israel should never surrender the Golan Heights, which she captured from Syria, nor the section of Jerusalem that she captured from Jordan. Both were seized during the six-day war in June 1967."

I wish also to bring to your attention, Sir, the report of Lt.-Gen. Odd Bull (S/7930/Add.533 of 3 February 1970) about the latest attacks by Israeli regular forces against Syria. Sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 of the report clearly mentions the use of napalm against a Syrian position.

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It should be recalled here, Sir, that the ink has not yet dried on General Assembly resolution 2603 A (XXIV) prohibiting the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons, including napalm. The first preambular paragraph reads as follows:

"Considering that chemical and biological methods of warfare have always been viewed with horror and been justly condemned by the international community,"

The operative paragraph reads as follows:

"Declares as contrary to the generally recognized rules of international law, as embodied in the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, the use in international armed conflict of:

"(a) Any chemical agents of warfare - chemical substances, whether gaseous, liquid or solid - which might be employed because of their direct toxic effects on man, animals or plants...."

It surely is no coincidence that this resolution, in favour of which there were eighty votes, Israel abstaining, was passed so recently, and Israel stands condemned of the crime of using chemical warfare.

In the report referred to, there is mention of the great number of Israeli planes used in its attack against Syria among them Phantoms and Skyhawks given to Israel by the United States of America after the 1967 war. The United States is on record that these planes were given for defence purposes, and they are being employed in offensive operations.

Does logic avail with Israeli leaders and their spokesmen? The answer was given by James Reston in yesterday's The New York Times:

"WHO NEEDS LOGIC?"

"This does not mean that Israel's policy will prevail. It is comparatively weak and is counting on military strength; it appeals to justice and is not just to the Arab refugees; it asks for mercy and is merciless in attack; it cries for a decent order in the world and for principles among nations, yet scorns and even vilifies the United Nations, which, despite obvious weaknesses, is the only instrument of international order and justice we have."

I shall be grateful if this letter can be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
