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LETTER DATED 17 JUNE 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a letter which His Majesty King Hussein had sent to President Ronald Reagan of the United States of America, on 10 June 1981, in the immediate aftermath of Israel's aggression against Iraq on 7 June 1981.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Text of letter His Majesty King Hussein sent to President
Ronald Reagan on 10 June 1981 in the aftermath of Israeli
aggression against Iraq on 7 June 1981

Mr. President,

Today, Jordan commemorates the 65th anniversary of the Great Arab Awakening, a date held sacred to the Arab nation.

Since the turn of the century, Arabs and Muslims have given their lives selflessly in the defence of the honour and dignity of this commonwealth of nations and, indeed, of its very identity. Yet, a sustained crusade is being perpetrated by the outrages committed by Israel in the very guts of the Muslim homeland, extinguishing as they do, any glimmer of hope for civilized and disciplined human relations for the peoples of this troubled region.

The sneak attack on the nuclear plant near the historic city of Baghdad by the so-called Israeli Defence Force is the latest in a series of unprovoked and humiliating acts against the Arab nation. It is my belief that, today, this vital region of the world stands at a moment of truth, at a dangerous crossroad of open war and continued human suffering.

The consequences of Israel's aggression must raise the following questions. Do the arrogant and insulting statements of the Israeli Prime Minister and the actions of his military machine mean that realpolitik is in the sole and exclusive service of Israeli politik? Does the colossal financial and military support to Israel carry no moral condition of constraint, and what intolerable goal does it hope to realize?

The unquestioning and highly developed commitment of successive United States administrations to the apparent fulfilment of Israel's opportunistic militarism has, today, developed a regional Israeli dimension. Does the United States intend to relinquish its role as a super-Power to a vicarious Israeli perception of the region's security?

Is it not a case of double standards that Iraq, which, as you are aware, Mr. President, signed the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty, seeking as it does energy from nuclear sources, as do many in this world for the same reasons, should come under attack when Israel's sinister and highly questionable nuclear programme and capability is conveniently disregarded, under Zionist pressures, by influential circles?

The violation by Israel of norms of international law of air, sea and land, the killing of Arab men, women and children, the recent loss of a French national and the death in the not-so-distant past of American servicemen aboard the ill-fated USS Liberty, all indicate to the Arab people that there are no standards when it comes to the case of Israel.

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S/14550
English
Annex
Page 2

The hearts and minds of Muslims and the Arab people have suffered beyond human limits after 14 years of occupation of Palestine and Jerusalem - the symbol of peace. Are they, today, expected to submit to the reaffirmation of, and I quote, "the long-standing moral, political, military ties between the United States and Israel"?

This Arab world, which has sincerely sought to establish friendly relations with the United States, based on mutual respect, can only today feel a sense of futility and disillusionment.

In conclusion, Mr. President, frankness and candor in our long association with the United States are traits which can never, and should never, change.

I am compelled at this sad juncture to place before you my feelings, as well as those of my countrymen in the Arab nation to which we proudly belong.

"Among the Believers are men who have been true to their Covenant with God: of them, some have completed their vow and some still wait: but they have never changed their determination in the least." (Koran, Sura XXXIII, v. 23)

In any event, Mr. President, please accept my warm personal good wishes.

(Signed) AL-HUSSEIN IBN TALAL
Amman, Jordan
