



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/12213
18 October 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 OCTOBER 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

As Chairman of the Arab Group during the month of October 1976, I have the honour to bring to your attention the escalation of Israeli acts of piracy against Arab civilians in the high seas.

In this connexion, we would like to refer to the visit paid to the Secretary-General by Ambassador Mohammed Sallam, Permanent Representative of Yemen, in his capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of September 1976. During that visit, Ambassador Sallam expressed the grave concern of the Arab delegations over Israeli piracy in the high seas.

We would also like to refer to the letter on this matter addressed to the Secretary-General on 28 September 1976 by the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization and circulated as General Assembly document A/31/256 on 6 October 1976.

Numerous acts of piracy in the high seas have been committed by the Israeli authorities, which have been reported in the mass media. For example, the Jerusalem Post carried on its issue of 12 October 1976, the following story:

"For the third time in a week, the Israel Navy on Thursday night apprehended a vessel off the Lebanese coast and towed it to Haifa. After a search of the vessel, a Cypriot yacht, the Peacemaker, and interrogation of passengers and crew, the boat was released on Friday afternoon.

"The Army spokesman announced that one of the passengers was being held by the security authorities. However, the captain of the yacht, Salah Badr - an Arab with Cypriot nationality - claimed in Cyprus later that two of his crew, Ahmed Gad and Mohammed Wafik, were taken off the boat.

"The Army spokesman said the Peacemaker, which claimed to be carrying refugees from the Lebanese conflict to Limasol, Cyprus, was stopped early Thursday evening north of Rosh Hanikra after she ignored a signal to identify herself. The decision to tow the boat and its 28 passengers and crew to Haifa was made after some people were seen throwing 'suspicious objects' overboard."

These acts have culminated in the recent incident on 7 October 1976 against

the passenger ship "Niyazi", which was en route from Sidon, Lebanon to the port of Limasol, Cyprus. Among the passengers were a number of Palestinians and five members of the staff of the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut. The ship was hijacked to the port of Haifa, where it was detained for 30 hours. Some of its passengers were maltreated and subjected to humiliation. In one known case so far, the passport of an Iraqi official was confiscated.

These acts perpetrated by Israel against civilians in the high seas are piratical in nature and contravene all norms of international law, especially freedom of navigation in the high seas.

This aggressive act is highlighted by the fact that Israel commits its acts at a time when the General Assembly is occupied with the consideration of the two items on international terrorism and the taking of hostages.

Again, we request from you, Excellency, to take all the necessary measures aimed at putting to an end these Israeli piratical acts.

We request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdulla Yaccoub BISHARA
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the
State of Kuwait to the United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group
