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Letter dated 9 November 1973 from the Permanent Representative  
of Israel to the United Nations 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 on 7 November 1973 (S/11084) by the Permanent Representative of Egypt and to state the following:

The record of the Egyptian Government in the matter of its relations with United Nations Military Forces is well known.

Suffice it to recall that in May 1967 the Egyptian Government ordered the UNEF to be evacuated; and in October 1973 ordered United Nations observers on the 1967 cease-fire line to withdraw.

As recently as 6 November 1973, the Acting Chief of Staff of UNTSO announced that the bodies of two observers, one French and one Italian, who had been missing since 6 October 1973 from OP Copper on the east side of the Suez Canal have been found. As is known they had been killed on 6 October 1973 by the Egyptian Army as it began its aggressive attack on Israel.

An Israeli liaison officer has also been missing from that same United Nations OP from the same date. To this day the Egyptian authorities have been refusing to hand over a body which may well be his body and which was found in the OP with the bodies of the two observers.

With regard to the deployment of the Irish contingent of UNEF in the area under Israeli control, the spokesman of UNEF has stated (Press Release EMP/455 dated 8 November 1973) that it would take place on 9 November 1973. The fact is that on 9 November this contingent reached its destination.

Once again the Egyptian Government has demonstrated excessive haste in trying to attach blame to Israel. Discussions for facilitating the deployment of the Irish contingent were in progress at the very moment when the Egyptian Representative's letter was being written.

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The allegations in the Egyptian letter relating as they do to a matter which does not come within the competence of the Egyptian Government are therefore rejected.

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

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

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