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LETTER DATED 19 OCTOBER 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 14 October 1973 by the Permanent Representative of Egypt (S/11024).

Even as the Egyptian Government tried to conceal its responsibility for the 6 October 1973 aggression by levelling the absurd charge that Israel had attacked first, a charge since refuted by United Nations military observers and contradicted by official statements and information media reports in Arab capitals, including Cairo, Egypt also tries to veil its contempt for human life and its violations of international law and morality by falsifying Israel's position in respect of the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

The aforesaid Egyptian letter alleges that "Israel failed to respond to the appeal of ICRC" to abide by the Geneva Conventions.

The facts are that on 7 October, 1973 the International Committee of the Red Cross appealed to all parties to apply the Geneva Conventions, and on 8 October 1973 the Israel Government officially informed the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Israel that, being a party to the four Geneva Conventions Israel will strictly observe their provisions in the current hostilities. This reply obviously applies to the reiteration by the International Committee of the Red Cross of its appeal on 9 October.

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

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

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