



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/11324  
21 June 1974

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

LETTER DATED 21 JUNE 1974 FROM THE ACTING 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 statement made in Beirut by the Prime Minister of Lebanon on 20 June 1974 concerning the action taken by Israel against the bases and installations of the Palestinian organizations in Lebanon, and to state the following:

It is a matter of common knowledge that by an agreement concluded in November 1969 in Cairo between the Government of Lebanon and the terror organizations, Lebanon has enabled and facilitated the establishment of a practically independent régime of the Palestinian murder and terror organizations in its territory, contrary to its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations Organization and the principles of international law. That agreement is still in force.

As pointed out in previous letters addressed to you by this Mission, and particularly in those of 18 May 1974 (S/11290), 22 May 1974 (S/11295), 24 May 1974 (S/11297), 3 June 1974 (S/11309), 6 June 1974 (S/11314), 13 June 1974 (S/11319) and 18 June 1974 (S/11321), it is on Lebanese territory that the terror organizations are permitted by the Government of that country to set up, maintain and conduct in complete freedom their headquarters, offices, propaganda-machinery, bases, recruiting activities, training camps, installations and arms-caches and it is from Lebanon that the terrorists set out on their nefarious murder missions in Israel and elsewhere.

One of the blatant manifestations of the policy of the Lebanese Government toward the terror organizations, characteristic of the standing accorded to them by it, is that Government's waiver of the right of the armed forces of Lebanon to enter terrorist bases, including the refugee camps which have come under the domination of the Palestinian murder organizations. Also in matters arising from ordinary criminal offences, the Lebanese armed forces are denied access to those camps. As pointed out in my letter (S/11309) of 3 June 1974, the Government of Lebanon even fails to react to assaults committed by the murder organizations against Lebanese soldiers.

In this connexion it is pertinent to note that, Mr. Pierre Gemayel, the leader of the Phalangist Party, stated, as reported in the Lebanese daily "en-Nahar" on 7 February 1974: "In accordance with the Cairo agreement the fedayeen actions have become military actions and there are areas in Lebanon, where the Government cannot enter. Lebanon has become the shelter and haven for all the fedayeen, as well as the point of departure for their actions."

Information media throughout the world, and in Lebanon itself, report regularly on the existence of this state of affairs, and the Lebanese Government has never been able to deny the facts and the numerous references to various statements made in this connexion, quoted in the letters addressed to you by this Mission.

So, for example, a television programme on the CBS-Network (Channel 2) in New York on 15 June 1974, included coverage of Palestinian terrorist bases in Southern Lebanon, showing their activities and training in preparation for their murderous attacks against targets in Israel, as well as most explicit interviews with Arafat and other terrorist leaders. All this stands in stark contrast to the pious protestations of the Lebanese Government in respect of its complicity in and responsibility for the activities of the terror organizations in and from its territory.

The acquiescence of the Lebanese Government in the existence on its territory of a virtually independent régime of the Palestinian murder organizations has caused strong indignation among its citizens, as reported from time to time in the Lebanese press.

For example, U.P.I. reported from Beirut on 22 May 1974, that Sheikh Mohammad Abu Shakra, the spiritual leader of the Lebanese Druze Community, had urged "the Palestinian guerrillas to keep away from the Druze villages in order to spare them further Israeli attacks".

It is obvious, that Israel, on its part, cannot accept the state of affairs described above and thus is obliged to take all the necessary measures to protect its citizens who are being attacked from Lebanese territory and to foil the commission of atrocities, such as those of Kiryat Shmona, Ma'alot and Kibbutz Shamir. This is so especially in view of the fact that the Palestinian murder organizations proclaim openly their intention to carry out additional outrages of this kind.

In this connexion it must again be stressed that, as reported by the United Press on 4 June 1974, Abu Iyad, Arafat's deputy, has declared at the recent session of the so-called "Palestine National Council" in Cairo, that Lebanon was now the only place from which the terrorists could launch their attacks against Israel.

Within the framework of such defensive measures by Israel to foil the commission of atrocities against its citizens from Lebanese territory, action was taken on 20 June 1974 against the following bases of the murder organizations in Lebanon:

/...

(a) In the area of Bourj el-Shimali, about 4 kms. east of Tsur (Tyre), a command post of the "P.F.L.P.-General Command". This is the organization headed by Ahmed Jibril which has committed the outrages in Kiryat Shmona and Kibbutz Shamir.

(b) In the area of Ein el-Hilwe, 3 1/2 kms. south of Sidon, four targets were hit:

- (1) a command post of the "Popular Liberation Forces", which is the terror operational arm of the "Palestine Liberation Army", coming under Arafat as head of the P.L.O.; a photograph showing an armed terrorist looking at a damaged sign inscribed "Palestine Liberation Organization" ("Munazzamat et-Tahrir el-Falastiniye") in Ein el-Hilwe base, appears on the front page of The New York Times of today, 21 June 1974;
- (2) a military installation of Arafat's "el-Fatah";
- (3) a central mechanical workshop serving the terror organizations;
- (4) a command post of the "Armed Struggle", the patrol and security branch of the terror organizations.

(c) In the area of Ras el-Ain, about 1 km. south of the refugee camp of Rashidiye - a tent encampment of an operational unit of "el Fatah", located in a grove. This unit engages in infiltrations into Israel.

(d) In the area of the refugee camp of Rashidiye, about 4 kms. south of Tsur (Tyre) - a base of the "Popular Liberation Forces". Action had already been taken on 19 May 1974 against this base by the Israel Navy.

(e) Three bunkers, used by the terrorists north of the refugee camp of Rashidiye.

All these targets have been definitely identified and pinpointed as military installations of the terror organizations, and all possible steps have been taken to avoid injury to residents of the refugee camps.

This is confirmed, for example, in a dispatch from Beirut published today in the London "Daily Telegraph", stating:

"The Israelis were able to locate and attack buildings used by Palestinian guerrillas. Flying at little below the speed of sound the jets were able to attack an unmarked building used as an office by the Popular Front - General Command, the extremist group responsible for the attack on Kiryat Shmona, in which more than 20 people died, and for last week's raid on Shamir, in which three Israelis were killed.

/...

"The planes were also able to hit a building used by the Palestine Liberation Organization which is marked only by a small board invisible from the air.

"Israel has frequently demonstrated its detailed knowledge of the layout of the refugee camps in Lebanon, and of the working of the various commando groups. Many guerrillas fear that some senior members of their movement may be passing information to Israel."

The building referred to in the second paragraph of the "Daily Telegraph's" dispatch, is that shown in the aforesaid photograph published in today's "New York Times".

Furthermore, the London "Guardian" of today (21 June 1974) carries a report from its Beirut correspondent Nazih Mustafa, saying that:

"In the air strikes on Rashidiye camp Israeli planes appeared to be aiming at a strip near the seashore where Palestinian commandos are reported to have a marine base. Sidon waterworks, close to one Israel target, was also damaged."

This dispatch refers to the action taken against the terrorist base, mentioned in paragraph "d" above.

Even the Lebanese press, e.g. the Beirut daily "el-Hayat", and the Beirut English-language "Daily Star", confirms that the targets of the Israeli action were the terror bases, reporting that up to 50 terrorists may have been killed and another 60 wounded in the action taken by Israel in the past two days.

As pointed out previously, the Lebanese Government, and it alone, is responsible for all the consequences, including the results of Israel's defensive action, arising from the existence and activities of a practically independent régime of the terror and murder organizations in and from Lebanon.

All transparent attempts by the Lebanese Government to mislead and deceive public opinion in respect of the facts and also regarding the true responsibility for the terror attacks from Lebanese territory against Israel and for their unavoidable consequences, must be categorically rejected.

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

(Signed) Jacob DORON  
Ambassador  
Acting Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations

-----