

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/10289  
12 August 1971

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 12 AUGUST 1971 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 letter addressed to you on 10 August 1971 by the Chargé d'affaires of Lebanon to the United Nations (S/10286) and to state as follows:

It is a matter of common knowledge that terrorist bases, from which acts of aggression are launched against Israel, are situated on Lebanese territory. Thus, an Associated Press report from Beirut, dated 9 August 1971, as published in The New York Times of 10 August 1971, states that "Hebbariye and Rashaya are 15 miles apart, and there are major guerrilla bases near each. The guerrilla communiqué issued by Al-Fatah, the largest of the Palestinian commando groups, said that the attacks had been directed at the two bases".

Furthermore, it may not be out of place to recall that, in an interview published in the Egyptian weekly El Musawwar on 4 June 1971, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, setting out the policy of his Government towards the Fedayeen, praised their actions and expressed the support of the Government of Lebanon for them in the following terms:

"We have restored the confidence between the Fedayeen and the Lebanese Government and people. This confidence and the co-operation derived from it, enabled the Fedayeen action to fulfil its national duty. I want to say frankly, that we all, in Lebanon, praise the Fedayeen action and praise the Fedayeen... The significance of that is, that Lebanon supports the Fedayeen and insists that they fulfil their national duty."

In the circumstances, complaints by the Government of Lebanon, like the one under reference, make rather strange reading.

As stated on previous occasions, the Government of Israel will not acquiesce in armed attacks directed against Israel from Lebanon and reserves its right to

take all appropriate measures of self-defence to protect its territory and citizens from such attacks.

Israel's policy is based on the scrupulous observance of the cease-fire on condition of reciprocity. It is incumbent on Lebanon to abide by its obligations under international law and under the cease-fire established by the Security Council and accepted by the Government of Lebanon on 31 July 1967. It is the duty of the Government of Lebanon to prevent the establishment and maintenance of terrorist bases in Lebanon and to put a stop to armed attacks of all kinds whatsoever from its territory against the population and territory of Israel.

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

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

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