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LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

I request you to have the text of this statement by the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics regarding the situation in the
Middle East circulated as an official document of the Security Council and of the
General Assembly.

(Signed) Y. MALIK
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations

* Also issued under the symbol A/8107.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR

Officials in the United States of America have recently been disseminating all kinds of unfounded allegations to the effect that the situation in the Middle East is becoming more critical as a result of the position of the Soviet Union and that the Soviet Union is "violating its undertakings" with regard to the cease-fire in the Suez Canal Zone.

The United States press, obviously encouraged by official circles, has been carrying out a campaign of slander against the Soviet Union. There can be no doubt that this campaign is aimed at deliberately misrepresenting the policy of the Soviet Union and at the same time at covering up for the ruling circles of Israel, who are directly responsible for the present aggravation of the situation in the Middle East, for the violation of the cease-fire agreement, and for the difficulties which Mr. Jarring, the Special Envoy of the United Nations, has encountered in carrying out his mission. Efforts are being made to mislead world public opinion and to shift responsibility for the situation that has arisen in the Middle East to the Soviet Union and the Arab countries, but these allegations are unfounded and completely at variance with the facts.

What do the facts show?

For its part, the Soviet Union, consistently advocating that use should be made of the possibilities offered by Mr. Jarring's mission, has actively contributed to the adoption of practical measures for the establishment of contacts so that negotiations between the parties could be begun through Mr. Jarring. The Government of the USSR has stated to the Government of the United States of America that as the Soviet Union takes a positive view of the possibilities offered by Mr. Jarring's mission, it will continue to be willing to do what it can to bring about the opening of negotiations as soon as possible and to contribute to their success.

The Soviet Government also takes a positive view of the willingness of the Governments of the United Arab Republic and Jordan to accept a cease-fire agreement if Israel makes the same undertaking.

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As the Government of the United States of America well knows, the Soviet Union did not participate in the formulation of any conditions for a cease-fire in the Suez Canal Zone. Those conditions were put forward by the United States. From the very outset the Soviet Union has consistently advocated a cease-fire, to which it attaches the greatest importance, and it had done everything within its power to ensure that Mr. Jarring, through whom the parties were to begin an exchange of views, would be able to carry out his mission successfully.

Despite all these facts, of which the United States Government is certainly aware, a campaign of slander has been launched in the United States with the obvious aim of casting aspersions on the position of the Soviet Union and abscribing to it the violation of some agreement. In particular, insinuations have been spread to the effect that anti-aircraft missile installations manned by Soviet crews have appeared in the Suez Canal Zone - also a deliberate falsification.

The claims by United States officials and Israel alleging violations of the cease-fire agreement by the United Arab Republic were refuted by Mr. Riad, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Republic, in his official statement to the United States representative in Cairo on 4 September 1970 and also in an address on the Cairo television on 6 October 1970. It is clear from this statement that the actual situation has nothing in common with the stories which are now being spread in the United States of America.

These stories were obviously launched in order to create still another far-fetched pretext for the breaking off by Tel Aviv of the contacts Mr. Jarring had just begun with the parties. It is Israel that is violating the terms of the cease-fire agreement. Israeli military aircraft are violating the air space of the United Arab Republic almost daily.

Israeli troops within the fifty-kilometre zone east of the Suez Canal are continuously building fortifications, setting up communications lines and carrying out other work using machinery and motor transport. New emplacements are being built for tanks, artillery, self-propelled guns and missile installations.

All this indicates that Israel and the United States of America which support it, bear the responsibility for the fact that Mr. Jarring is in fact unable to proceed with his mission. At the same time the aggressors, who have seized the lands of the neighbouring Arab States and are continuing to violate international law, are hypocritically taking it upon themselves to tell the Arab countries, the victims of their aggression, how they should conduct themselves.

Likewise, it must be noted that the United States itself is engaging in action which serves to aggravate the situation in the Middle East. Evidence of this can be seen, for example, in the transfer to the Mediterranean of additional United States naval vessels, the "show of force" by the Sixth Fleet of the United States, the provocative character of which was accentuated by the personal presence of the President of the United States.

It was precisely at this time that the United States Government carried out a series of negotiations with Tel Aviv, took the decision to deliver a new shipment of Phantom aircraft to Israel and granted Israel a new loan for the purchase in the United States of military equipment and supplies.

It should also be noted that the United States is trying to assume the "right" to make reconnaissance flights over the territory of the United Arab Republic. The Soviet Government has officially stated to the United States that such actions further complicate the situation in this region and constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Republic. United States leaders have been talking a great deal lately about trust, which is indispensable in international relations. Do they think that their actions in the Middle East, their deception of public opinion through the unscrupulous distortion of facts, helps to strengthen trust for the policy of the United States in the Middle East?

In view of the fact that the United Arab Republic and Jordan confirm their readiness to start negotiations between the parties through Mr. Jarring and, essentially, the cease-fire continues, then the question whether these favourable possibilities will be used to bring about a political settlement in the Middle East in fact depends on the position of Israel and the outside forces supporting

it. The United States must make a choice with regard to its policy in the Middle East: will it continue to encourage Israel's reckless designs or will it really decide to implement the Security Council decision of 22 November 1967 and to help to establish a just and lasting peace in this region?

The Soviet Union continues to be strongly in favour of a political settlement of the problems of the Middle East on the basis of the implementation of all the provisions of that Security Council resolution.

The Soviet Government will continue to do everything possible to further the attainment of that objective through bilateral meetings and in consultations of the four Powers which are permanent members of the Security Council.
