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LETTER DATED 19 JANUARY 1971 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter of 15 January 1971 addressed by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the President of the Security Council (S/10078). On 30 December 1970, the Permanent Mission of Israel drew the attention of the President of the Security Council to continuing terror attacks carried out from Lebanon against Israel and to the support given them by the Lebanese authorities (S/10067).

The aggression from Lebanon described in the Mission's letter has since been followed by a further intensification of sabotage raids and of shelling attacks on Israeli villages. The bases from which these acts of aggression are perpetrated are situated inside Lebanon, along the entire cease-fire line, from the area opposite Kiryat Shemonah to the Mediterranean coast.

On 31 December 1970, saboteurs from Lebanon blew up part of a building in the town of Kiryat Shemonah.

On the night of 1 January 1971, raiders from Lebanon ambushed an Israeli patrol in the Avivim area, in Upper Galilee, and killed one soldier.

On the same night and on 2, 4, 8, 10 and 11 January 1971, a number of Israeli villages were attacked by mortar or rocket fire.

On 15 January, raiders from Lebanon attacked and killed an Israeli civilian working with his tractor in the area of Har Dov in eastern Galilee.

During the last six months 260 acts of aggression have taken place from Lebanese territory, causing the death of eleven Israelis and the wounding of seventy-seven.

On 4 January 1971, as reported by the Middle East News Agency, the Prime Minister of Lebanon reiterated his Government's co-operation with the terror organizations.

Encouraged by this attitude of the Lebanese Government, the terror organizations have tried to extend the field of their operations and to carry them out through the sea.

On 2 January 1971, a group of raiders, sent from a base in Lebanon by rubber boat, tried to land in northern Israel. Five of the raiders were captured by Israeli forces. It appears that a sixth managed to get away. The attackers wore frogman suits and carried arms and equipment. They revealed that their mission was to kidnap an Israeli citizen.

It was learned that the Lebanese harbour at Ras-Al-Shak (Sarafand), approximately 13 km south of Sidon, serves as a base from which terrorists, arms and sabotage material are dispatched into Israel and the Gaza Strip. Repeated recent terrorist activities in Gaza, which have taken a heavy toll of lives, particularly among local Arab residents, depend on such shipments of men and material from Lebanon.

The London Times on 16 January 1971, published a dispatch from its correspondent at Sarafand, Lebanon, in which he described the location as "an important Palestinian guerrilla staging base".

During the night of 14-15 January 1971, an Israeli unit acted to disable this terrorist base. It encountered a large force of saboteurs ten of whom were killed and several wounded in the ensuing clash. Six Israeli soldiers were slightly injured. The saboteurs' camp, caves and underground structures used as living quarters and for storage were blown up. A raft with a rocket mounted on it was also destroyed. A quantity of arms was seized.

Contrary to the claim contained in the above-mentioned letter from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon that the target of the Israeli action was a civilian village, the El Fatah terror organization has confirmed that the action was directed against one of its bases. An El Fatah spokesman, quoted by press agencies in reports from Beirut on 15 January 1971, declared that the target was "a supplies and combat guerrilla base". He went on to refer to heavy fighting between its "commandos" and the Israeli force.

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As shown already in the letter of this Mission previously mentioned, the Government of Lebanon bears a heavy responsibility for harbouring these terrorist forces and for encouraging their activities in violation of the United Nations Charter and in defiance of the cease-fire. Rather than cover up for terror warfare against Israel and indulge in political incitement and distortion of facts, as in the Lebanese letter, the Government of Lebanon must take effective steps, in accordance with its international obligations, to stop aggression from its territory.

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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