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LETTER DATED 30 JANUARY 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to inform you of the following:

Despite the fact that General Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of UNTSO, had been notified by my Government on 21 January 1968 of the time-table and arrangements for the survey of the Suez Canal scheduled to start on the 27th inst., in view of the release of the fifteen stranded ships, the Israeli armed forces opened fire this morning at 7.55 a.m. local time on the launches, which were carrying out the survey in accordance with this time-table. Our forces did not return the fire.

At 11.20 a.m. local time, the Israeli armed forces opened fire once again on one of the launches and its crew, causing heavy damages. The Israeli forces having this time equally shelled our positions, the United Arab Republic forces were compelled to return the fire in self-defence.

My Government views these acts very seriously and considers that they constitute a flagrant violation of the cease-fire resolutions adopted by the Security Council. Needless to say that they do obstruct those operations which have been undertaken by the Suez Canal Authority for the release of those ships.

I wish to request, Your Excellency, that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Mohamed Awad EL KONY  
Permanent Representative of the  
United Arab Republic to the  
United Nations