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LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to my letter of 15 December 1969 to the President of the Security Council (S/9556) in which I drew attention to the intensification of aggression from Lebanon against Israel. Acts of aggression from Lebanese territory have continued, assuming an increasingly graver character.

It will be recalled that on 13 December two inhabitants of Metulla were killed in a bazooka attack from Lebanese territory.

On 18 December an Israeli civilian was wounded when his car was shelled by bazookas from across the cease-fire line with Lebanon.

In the last ten days, there were nineteen armed attacks from Lebanese territory against Israeli villages, Israeli civilians and transport. In three attacks Katyusha rockets were employed. Shelling with mortars occurred in three instances and with bazookas in seven. There were two mining raids, two acts of sabotage and two small arms attacks.

On 1 January 1970 at about 2120 hours local time, raiders from Lebanon attacked again in Metulla, planting mines and explosive charges and abducting a civilian watchman. As the attackers came from Lebanese territory and returned to it, Israel holds Lebanon responsible for their acts of aggression.

Aggression from Lebanon has grown considerably in the wake of the agreement concluded on 3 November 1969 between the Government of Lebanon and terror organizations, through the mediation of the United Arab Republic Government. Under this agreement, Lebanon permits these organizations to operate in and from its territory in flagrant violation of the cease-fire and the United Nations Charter.

The Government of Israel has repeatedly called on Lebanon to realize the grave responsibility it has assumed in pursuing this policy of aggression and to desist from it. Lebanon, however, has not modified its attitude and acts of aggression from its territory against Israel have further increased. Under these circumstances, Israel is obliged to take defensive measures for the protection of its territory and its population subjected, as a result of Lebanon's policy, to the constant danger of murder and injury.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
