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LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions of my Government, and pursuant to my conversation with Your Excellency on 26 January 1970, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following:

On 25 January 1970, at 7.45 a.m., the Israeli air force committed a further treacherous act of aggression by attacking the United Arab Republic civilian unarmed vessel "Shadwan". This 300-ton vessel belongs to the United Arab Company for Maritime Provisions and is registered as a part of the United Arab Republic Merchant Marine with the Civilian Maritime Registry of the United Arab Republic.

At the time when Israeli aircraft opened fire on this unarmed civilian vessel, the vessel was sailing southward in the Red Sea, at a distance of 20 kilometres from the Egyptian town of Ghardaka and more than 50 kilometres from the Shadwan Island which has itself witnessed, on 22 January 1970, an earlier act of Israeli aggression. The vessel was hit, six members of its crew, all civilians, were wounded and the vessel had, later, to be tugged to shore.

In previous letters to and statements made before the Security Council, the United Arab Republic has drawn the attention of the Council to Israel's attacks on civilian targets, inflicting destruction and damage on civilian installations and buildings.

This Israeli attack on a civilian unarmed vessel is another manifestation of their violation of the elementary norms of international law. It marks another phase in their lawless conduct, the serious implications of which cannot but cause grave concern to the community of nations.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Mohamed H. EL-ZAYYAT
Permanent Representative of the
United Arab Republic to the
United Nations
