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LETTER DATED 12 FEBRUARY 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the extremely serious and perverse attack perpetrated by Arab terrorists on 10 February 1970 at Riem Airport, Munich, and directed against passengers about to board an Israeli civil aircraft on a scheduled international flight from Tel Aviv, with a stopover at Munich. In that completely unprovoked and murderous assault, one Israeli citizen, engineer Ari Katzenstein, was killed, one was gravely wounded, the actress Hanna Maron and another score of persons, including the pilot and co-pilot, were wounded. According to information media, the Munich airport police, who were compelled to use firearms, succeeded in arresting three of these Arab terrorists.

Following this outrage, the spokesman for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem issued a statement, of which the following is a translation:

"Once again representatives of Arab lawlessness have perpetrated a criminal act consisting in an attack on peaceful and totally innocent passengers. The attack in Munich is a continuation of the series of heinous and unprecedented crimes which have evoked the disgust of the entire civilized world, since the murderous terrorists, who were caught in their perversity and placed on trial in Zurich, were sentenced with all the severity of the law. That same trial gave expression to the gravity with which these murderous criminals, whose purpose is to strike not only at civilians, but also at international air travel and at the fundamental principle of freedom of movement, are regarded by the civilized world. The latest act proves once again the essence and real nature of the forces behind these acts, whose faces are turned only towards murder and destruction. This act is another witness to the manner and character of the war which the different terrorist organizations are pursuing against Israel with the support of the Arab Governments.

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"The crime which occurred at Munich should arouse the Governments and the various international factors to review their steps to put an end to this criminal lawlessness by taking all the measures necessary to ensure the freedom of civil air transport and the safety of the general public which is using air transport."

It will be recalled that, in its resolution 262 (1968) of 31 December 1968, the Security Council expressed its deep concern about the need to assure free uninterrupted international civil air traffic; and, in its resolution 2551 (XXIV) of 12 December 1969, the General Assembly expressed its deep concern over all acts of unlawful interference with international civil aviation, being mindful "that such acts may endanger the life and health of passengers and crew in disregard of commonly accepted humanitarian considerations".

Responsibility for the attack at Munich rests with the Arab Governments. They are actively participating in the organization, financing and training of the terror organizations and in the direction of their operations. They are abusing the decencies of diplomatic relations by trying to extend to individual perpetrators of murderous terror acts, even when they have been caught red-handed and placed on trial, their diplomatic protection - a matter which has been most flagrant in the recent trial in Zurich. The responsibility of the Arab Governments goes even further, for it is they which have encouraged the spread of a psychosis favourable to such sneak and cowardly attacks and have been glamourizing them.

I have the honour to request the immediate circulation of this letter to all Members of the United Nations as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly. At the same time, I have the honour to inform you that a copy of this communication is being sent to the competent organ of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

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