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LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions of my Government I have the honour to refer to the letters addressed to you by the Acting Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic on 20 July 1969 (S/9343, S/9344).

In my letter of 19 May 1969 (S/9214), I drew the attention of the President of the Security Council to the deliberate policy of the United Arab Republic of violating the cease-fire by premeditated acts of military aggression.

In a speech on 1 May 1969, in Cairo, President Nasser announced that since March 1969 the armed forces of the United Arab Republic had been ordered to engage in unrelenting offensive operations against Israeli positions. On that occasion, President Nasser defined the objective of these operations as "the destruction of the Bar-Lev line" and the penetration of the Sinai peninsula by "fighting patrols".

In the same address to the Egyptian nation, President Nasser made it clear that the military offensive along the Suez Canal was an integral part of the continued Arab warfare against Israel, when he proclaimed:

"We speak of the holy battle, a holy war, and an armed struggle... Israel knows that this battle is one of life or death..."

Since then numerous official United Arab Republic spokesmen have confirmed that the United Arab Republic forces have moved from the stage of "mobile active defense" to that of "penetration and direct military confrontation with the enemy".

Faced with continuous attempts made by the United Arab Republic armed forces to implement this policy of war through incessant acts of aggression, Israel has no choice but to resort to measures of self-defence. These measures are directed exclusively against United Arab Republic military positions and against bases from which attacks against Israeli forces originate. Allegations made by the United Arab Republic authorities that these measures are aimed against civilian targets are without foundation in fact.

It has become a matter of routine for the Egyptian Government spokesmen in Cairo and for the United Arab Republic representatives in the United Nations to advance distorted and imaginary reports concerning developments along the cease-fire line. These false reports are aimed at the Egyptian public as well as world opinion.

The above-mentioned letters from the Acting Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic are no exception in this respect and can only contribute to a further widening of the credibility gap already existing with regard to claims made by United Arab Republic authorities. It may be assumed, nevertheless, that the Government of the United Arab Republic and its military command are aware of the real causes of the present situation in the Suez Canal area and of the true facts.

As stated in my letter of 19 May 1969:

"The present situation in the Suez Canal results from the United Arab Republic's premeditated and openly pursued policy of aggression. Tranquillity in this area will be assured when the United Arab Republic abandons this policy and observes scrupulously the cease-fire."

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

Please accept, etc.

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