

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



UN LIBRARY
DEC 17 1969
RECEIVED



Distr.
GENERAL

S/9556
15 December 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 DECEMBER 1969 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 the letter addressed to you on 4 December 1969 by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon (S/9530).

The description contained in that letter of the events on 3 December 1969 is false. On that day the Israel Defence Forces took action against a para-military encampment which serves as a base for terror operations against Israel. The base is situated on the cease-fire line on the slopes of Mount Hermon. In the course of this action twelve members of the irregular forces concentrated in the base were killed and many others wounded. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were seized. No civilian targets were attacked and there were no civilian casualties. This has, in the meantime, been confirmed by the Lebanese Press.

In my note to the Secretary-General of 25 August 1969 (S/9393/Add.2), I indicated that "armed terrorist groups have established bases on Lebanese territory and openly operate across the cease-fire lines, by means of firing on Israel villages, infiltration, mine-laying, sabotage and other acts of armed violence in defiance of the cease-fire". In letters to the President of the Security Council on 5 September 1969 (S/9431) and 10 October 1969 (S/9470), I emphasized further the seriousness of this situation and the resultant dangers.

Since then acts of aggression carried out against Israel have increased, particularly in the wake of the agreement concluded between the Government of Lebanon and terror organizations whereby Lebanon permits these organizations to operate in and from its territory in flagrant violation of the cease-fire and the United Nations Charter.

In the last five weeks six artillery attacks and four mining raids into Israel have been carried out from Lebanese territory. The latest attack took place on 13 December when the town of Metullah was shelled by Katyusha rockets and bazookas causing the death of two Israeli citizens. It is evident that in these circumstances Israel is obliged to take defensive measures for the protection of its territory and its population from armed attack.

It is significant that the letter from the Representative of Lebanon does not even mention the cease-fire to which his Government is committed. I should like to reiterate, as stated in my letter to the Secretary-General of 25 August 1969 (S/9393/Add.2), that "having accepted the cease-fire, it is the unquestioned duty of the Lebanese Government to prevent all violations of it from Lebanese territory whether by regular or by irregular forces. When Lebanon unequivocally accepts and effectively discharges this obligation the cease-fire will be properly maintained, and the situation will cease to be disturbing".

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
