

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/9207
13 May 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 13 MAY 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 29 April 1969 (document S/9188) in which I reiterated our readiness to contribute to the maximum extent possible towards reducing the risks which the United Nations Military Observers are exposed to in the discharge of their duties under the dangerous conditions created by the continued Israeli aggression.

Upon further instructions from my Government, I wish to confirm that during the recent meetings between Lt. General Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, and Ambassador Salah Gohar, Under-Secretary of State, Lt. General Bull was informed that the fortification of UNMO's shelters along the west bank of the Suez Canal is already under way. Lt. General Bull was, moreover, informed that we are ready to undertake the fortification in accordance with the specifications which would be submitted to us by him. Lt. General Bull has also been informed of other steps already taken to eliminate the exposure of UNMO to Israeli fire.

Suggestions put forward by Lt. General Bull have been discussed extensively with Ambassador Gohar. Ambassador Gohar has again reassured Lt. General Bull of our readiness to respond positively to any suggestion for that purpose which would naturally be consistent with the effectiveness of our defences in the Suez Canal sector against Israeli aggression.

While reaffirming our readiness to do all in our power to ensure the safety of the UNMO and supporting field service personnel stationed at the Suez Canal sector, I need hardly reiterate that Israel, by its persistent aggression, by its avowed intentions and systematic attacks on cities and towns and destruction of economic installations, bears solely the responsibility for the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East and the endangering of world peace.

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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 Awad EL KONY
Permanent Representative of the
United Arab Republic to the
United Nations