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LETTER DATED 14 MAY 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 8 May 1969 by the Permanent Representative of Jordan (A/7551, S/9197).

The Jordanian letter is an exercise in sterile propaganda; it is replete with falsehood and distortion and is obviously designed to mislead public opinion.

Thus, persons questioned by the authorities, in conformity with Israel's obligation to ensure the safety, welfare and security of the population, are claimed to have been detained; others, detained and promptly released, are said to have been imprisoned. Houses undamaged are alleged to have been demolished. A statement by the Israeli Minister of Police is distorted. Imaginary tales of imprisonment and torture are shamelessly fabricated.

One example is the case of Atta Al-Maraghi, who, incidentally, is fifty years old and not seventy, as stated in the Jordanian letter. The letter ignores completely Al-Maraghi's involvement in terror activities and the concealment of arms in his home. On the other hand, it alleges that Atta Al-Maraghi's house was dynamited while, in fact, it was not.

It is a matter of common knowledge that a systematic campaign aimed at disrupting public order and stirring up violence in areas under Israeli administration is conducted from Amman and is financed by the Jordanian Treasury. The Jordanian Government must, therefore, be held responsible for the consequences of this campaign, which jeopardizes the safety, welfare and security of the local population.

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Jordan also plays a most active role in the pursuance of general terror warfare against Israel. Jordanian territory serves as the principal base for terror operations directed indiscriminately against men, women and children for the purpose of murder for murder's sake. This warfare does not spare even the local Arab inhabitants as evidenced by the explosions of grenades and dynamite charges in Arab schools as a means of generating tension and terrorizing the population.

As indicated in previous letters addressed by me to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council, the organizers of terror warfare frequently dispatch women and young girls on missions of murder and employ them in the campaign of disturbing peace and security in territories under Israeli control.

The nature and aims of these operations are expressed in a characteristic statement made by a terrorist commander in Jordan in an interview published on 14 January 1969 in the London Daily Mail. The commander is quoted as having said:

"They are going up country tomorrow. They have simple orders: 'Kill Jews'. No, we don't care whether the dead are civilians or soldiers, just so long as they are Jews."

Measures adopted by the Israeli authorities in defence against terror warfare and in order to prevent activities aimed at endangering the safety and security of the population in Israeli administered areas are by far more liberal than those employed in the same areas during the period of Jordanian occupation. Though Israel finds itself surrounded by hostile neighbours who wage relentless warfare against it, the steps it takes to ensure law and order are moderate in comparison with methods employed in countries which enjoy conditions of peace.

Since June 1967, there has not been a single death sentence in any of the areas under Israeli control. In only one instance has a disturbance of public order resulted in the death of a civilian, and those responsible are now facing trial. There has been only one case of death in prison, and this due to illness. The allegation in the Jordanian letter that an autopsy by "a neutral doctor" was requested and refused is untrue.

It is to be observed that representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross are in constant and close touch with developments and conditions in the Israeli held areas.

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It is by now clear to all that Jordanian letters of the kind addressed to you on 8 May 1969 are designed to divert attention from Jordan's grave responsibility for the continuation of acts of terror and aggression persistently carried out by and from Jordan.

I have the honour to request the circulation of this letter as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

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

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