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LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to bring to your attention that armed attacks against civilians, carried out from Jordan in violation of the cease-fire, are continuing.

Today, 24 May 1969, at approximately 1300 hours local time, fire was opened from Jordan territory on the Ethiopian monastery at Kasér-el-Yahud, south of the Allenby Bridge. The attack took place as the funeral of an Ethiopian monk was being held at the monastery. The Consul of Ethiopia in Jerusalem participated in the funeral procession. A vehicle of the Israel Defence Forces, sent to rescue the participants of the funeral procession, was also attacked. The ensuing exchange of fire continued for nearly two hours.

Yesterday, 23 May 1969, at 0430 hours local time the Israeli village of Ein Hanatziv in the Beit Shean Valley was shelled from Jordan. An hour later an Israeli patrol near Beit Yosef, in the same area, came under Jordanian fire. One Israeli soldier was seriously wounded.

As brought to the attention of the President of the Security Council in my previous letters, regular and irregular forces operating from Jordanian territory have, in recent months, intensified their attacks against Israel. These acts of aggression by shelling, armed raids and sabotage, have been directed primarily against civilians. The Israel Defence Forces have been compelled time and again to take self-defence action to foil these assaults.

Saboteur camps and training bases operate openly in Jordan where terror organizations enjoy the sanction and aid of the Jordanian authorities, Jordanian regular forces collaborate with them in deliberate breaches of the cease-fire. Lately this collaboration has increased, and Jordanian armed forces regularly provide covering fire for saboteur units operating against Israel

Between 11 May and 17 May 1969, there were fifty-seven attacks from Jordan against Israel.

On the night of 17 May 1969 irregular units from Jordan attacked positions of the Israel Defence Forces, in the central Jordan Valley. Nearby Jordanian army posts preceded the attack with an all day artillery barrage and accompanied it with supporting fire.

On 19 May, Jordanian forces attacked Israeli patrols in the area between the Dead Sea and Allenby Bridge. On the same night the potash plant at the Dead Sea, near Sodom, was the target of a Katysha rocket attack from Jordan.

On 20 May the copper mines of Timna north of Eilat were shelled from Jordan.

The campaign of aggression from Jordan against Israel is pursued openly. The incessant acts of violence are publicized and glamourized through Arab information media and are extensively reported in the world Press. This warfare leaves no doubt whatever concerning Jordan's attitude toward the cease-fire which must be maintained on the basis of strict reciprocity. It also leaves no room for Jordanian complaints about Israeli self-defence measures, complaints which are generally based on distortion and misinterpretation as in the letters addressed by the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the Secretary-General on 16 May 1969 (S/9211, A/7555) and to the President of the Security Council on 22 May 1969 (S/9218).

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

Please accept, etc.

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