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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 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 two letters addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council, respectively, by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Jordan on 12 August 1969 (A/7578, S/9386 and S/9388).

It is undisputed, on the basis of official announcements by the Government of Jordan and on the basis of information disseminated by Arab and international news media, that the Government of Jordan is actively encouraging aggressive activities against Israel and that armed attacks are constantly being committed from Jordanian territory against Israel. Claims that Jordan is the innocent victim of current events should be examined in the light of the central fact of the wilful and persistent violations by Jordan of the cease-fire.

Despite the unambiguous terms of officially disseminated statements in Amman, it will be observed that the Government of Jordan reserves for the United Nations special versions of its policies and advances grossly misleading reports fabricated for that purpose. This constitutes no serious basis for establishing the facts or examining the causes and responsibility for the present situation on the Israel-Jordan cease-fire lines.

Some recent official Jordanian statements may be repeated here as showing where the initiative and responsibility for the recent events lie.

The New York Times reported from Amman on 31 July 1969 an address delivered by King Hussein at a meeting of "students, commando leaders and Government officials", in which he "identified Jordan with the recently proclaimed policy of President Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt of a war of attrition" in response to

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"Mr. Nasser's appeals for the strengthening of Arab forces on Israel's eastern front". The report also says that King Hussein committed himself to the "escalation" of warfare against Israel "until victory is achieved". Such public commitments to a doctrine of a war of attrition, made before "commando leaders", have well-known and familiar connotations.

The then Prime Minister of Jordan and now Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Abdul Muneim Rifai, was reported by the Middle East News Agency as having stated, on 5 August 1969, that political efforts should be abandoned and that a "time-table" should be worked out by the Arab States in order to overcome Israel by force, in which "fedayeen action" would have a role. Mr. Rifai went on to pledge Jordan's support for that action.

With thousands of armed saboteurs freely stationed, trained and assisted in carrying out their attacks from Jordan, the full meaning of these announcements is clear. They leave no room for doubt as to where the responsibility for violations of the cease-fire rests.

In recent weeks, the scale and frequency of aggressive attacks from Jordan territory on centres of Israeli civilian population have escalated. Units of the Jordanian army have displayed increasing direct initiative in harassing Israeli villages, particularly in the Jordan Valley, where their aggression is directed towards the disruption of work and life, the inflicting of economic damage and the terrorization of the civilian population. In this, the Jordanian regular and irregular forces are reinforced by military units from Iraq, which still refuses to accept the cease-fire resolution. Recently Syria, which rejects the Security Council resolution of November 1967 and boycotts all peace-making efforts, has also introduced its armed forces into Jordan territory with a view to expanding the scale of aggression.

The cease-fire is based on reciprocity. If the Government of Jordan is unwilling or unable to respect its obligation under the cease-fire, Israel is left with no alternative but to take appropriate steps to defend the life and property of its citizens, which, as the records of Security Council debates prove so clearly, otherwise have no protection;

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

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH