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LETTER DATED 18 MARCH 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 11 March 1969 by the Permanent Representative of the Soviet Union (S/9073) enclosing a Tass statement dated 28 February 1969.

The relationship of the Tass statement to truth is illustrated by such pronouncements as for instance that "Israel forces opened artillery fire in the Suez Canal area", this after weeks of almost daily reports by the United Nations Military Observers circulated as Security Council documents, squarely stating that it was the United Arab Republic forces which repeatedly opened fire.

That, however, is not the most sinister aspect of the Tass statement. Of utmost gravity is the blanket approval expressed in it for the Arab terror warfare waged against Israel. The spurious attempt to legitimate this warfare is open encouragement to the Arab States to continue to violate the cease-fire and undermine further the prospects for peace through the initiation of and support for the terror operations. The terror operations being directed against Israeli civilians, such a statement is an open invitation to murder for murder's sake.

The Soviet position on this was expressed without any embellishment in an article that appeared in Pravda of 27 February 1969, defending the terrorist attack on an Israeli civil passenger aircraft at the Zurich airport. The entire civilized world had expressed its horror at this wanton attack against innocent men, women and children in a neutral country; and the Secretary-General of the United Nations had called it a "dastardly" and "criminal act", which "Governments and peoples, regardless of their political views, must condemn...". Instead of heeding the Secretary-General's call to all Governments to take all possible measures to prevent any repetition of these acts, the Soviet organ glamourizes them and in fact calls for more.

Associations of European anti-Nazi resistance fighters, and many others, the Nobel Peace Prize winner for 1968, Rene Cassin, as well as the world Press have condemned Arab terror warfare as similar to the Nazi murders of Jews. The Soviet Government, however, has associated itself with this despicable movement directed against the liberty and life of the Jewish people in Israel. It is a matter of common knowledge that the proclaimed objective of Arab terror warfare is the destruction of Israel.

The foregoing throws light on the persistently grim role of the Soviet Union in the continuation of Arab belligerency against Israel and in the adamant refusal of the Arab States to join with the Government of Israel in the quest after a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Had the Soviet Union desired to see the termination of the Arab war waged against Israel since 1948 and had it favoured the promotion of peace agreements between Israel and the Arab States as called for in the 22 November 1967 Security Council resolution, it would not have come out in support of one of the principal factors which are today endangering the achievement of that objective.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, etc.

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

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