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LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ITALY ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to express to you its deep concern about armed attacks against civil airlines, such as the one carried out recently at Zurich, on 18 February 1969.

Such acts are to be deeply deplored, firstly because they constitute a serious threat to the security of international civil air transport, and secondly because they maintain the cycle of violence and retaliation, which can only increase the tension in a region whose instability is a source of danger.

Furthermore, the Zurich attack took place at a time when new efforts were being made to seek a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis. Consequently, it may compromise those efforts and increase the concern of the Governments most directly involved in the search for a peaceful solution.

Lastly, the Italian Government wishes to express its anxiety about the dangerous consequences which the recurrence of such incidents may have for communications in the Mediterranean. It believes that the specialized agencies of the United Nations should, as a matter of the utmost urgency, seek effective ways of preventing and repressing such acts.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as an official Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) PIERO VINCI