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LETTER DATED 10 JULY 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to relate the details of the latest Israeli aerial attack against Syria.

On 8 July 1969 at 1605 hours local time, Israeli planes penetrated the Syrian sky. The Syrian air force in self-defence intercepted the intruding military aircraft and an air battle followed, which lasted till 1715 hours local time. Three Syrian planes were downed and a Syrian pilot killed. Four of the attacking Israeli planes were downed.

In reporting on this air battle the official Israeli communique said:

"the Syrian planes made an attempt to penetrate the Quneitra sector at about 3.30 p.m." (The New York Times, 9 July 1969)

1. The report received from the Acting Chief of Staff of UNTSO (No. S/7930/Add.258, 9 July 1969), unequivocally proves the falsehood of the Israeli claim. Indeed, its first paragraph states:

"At 1318 (all times GMT) four Israel Mirage aircraft flew west to east over the area between the limits of the forward defended localities, indicating the cease-fire lines between Ops Two and Five."

2. The statement of the Israeli Chief of Intelligence yesterday contained the following:

"Brig. Gen. Aharon Yaariv, Chief of Military Intelligence speaking this evening to newsmen, indicated that the increased Israeli air activity was intended to remind the Arabs of their air forces' inadequacy. General Yaariv said that Arab leaders must know that air power is decisive in any major engagement. (my italics) (The New York Times, 9 July 1969, page 12)

The underlined words of this statement prove decisively that this latest attack on Syria was intended, premeditated and executed accordingly.

3. If a further proof is needed it is clearly stated in today's article in The New York Times (10 July) under the sub-title: "Explanations Dropped".

"Explanations that the engagement followed clashes 'while the Israelis were on routine patrol' have been dropped. Some Israeli newspapers did not even bother this morning to recount the latest cover, that the enemy was 'attempting to penetrate Israeli air space'."

4. More ominous and dangerous is the fact that this premeditated attack on Syria is part of a yet new aggressive military strategy explained in the same article:

"It is now apparent that several weeks ago, the Israeli general staff decided to launch a limited and controlled offensive strategic balance here."

"Their solution was a modified version of the June 5 pre-emptive strike that opened the military chapter of the 1967 war and, at the same time, virtually ended it." (my italics)

Such aggressiveness, Sir, is so clearly explained that it does not warrant any comment or interpretation. It does not only constitute a threat to peace in the Middle East, but might indeed have larger dimensions. We therefore feel duty-bound to warn the Security Council, as the principal organ for international peace and security, of the escalation of war by expansionist, aggressive Israel.

5. This is all the more to be regretted that Israel is encouraged to consolidate its conquest of Arab territories and rewarded for its international piracy by receiving huge quantities of offensive arms of all kinds, primarily from the United States Government. For besides the Skyhawk fighter-bombers and the Hawk missiles given to Israel after its conquest of Arab territories as defensive arms, they have been and are used for attacks from occupied Arab territories against the Arab States. In addition we are told that:

"Israel also expects to receive the first of some 50 United States F-4 fighter aircraft before the end of the year, as well as 50 Mirage V jet fighter-bombers that have been impounded in France for more than two years." (The New York Times, page 12, 9 July 1969)

Moreover, the Jewish Agency, which operates freely in the United States, while being juridically an integral part of the Government of Israel (see the 1952 Israeli Status Law) announced its 1969-70 budget. Its appropriations reveal that more

than 75 per cent of them will be spent on absorption, settlement and youth immigration (Israel Digest, 7 April 1969, page 2). This is tax deductible money going from the United States - in a time of grave inflation - under the disguise of charity. But, it is openly declared that its purpose is to finance colonization of occupied territories of three Member States of the United Nations.

The United States Government would do better to ponder seriously on the grave implications and the seeds of explosion which it is helping to sow in the Middle East against the Arab people. To say the least, this is an utter negation of the spirit and letter of the United Nations Charter.

I shall be grateful, Sir, if this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative
