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LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1969 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, a.i. OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to attach herewith the text of a letter dated 10 July 1969 from the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Arab Republic Liaison Officer.

The text of that letter reaffirms that the Israeli occupying authorities have committed another grave violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

It will be recalled that in an attempt to obfuscate the truth and distort the facts, the Israeli representative in a letter dated 25 June 1969 to the President of the Security Council (document S/9283) alleged that the United Arab Republic authorities refused to accept the bodies of the United Arab Republic soldiers.

The facts contained in the attached letter of the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross refute the false Israeli allegations. They reveal that by their inhuman behaviour, the Israeli occupying authorities have left the bodies to deteriorate contrary to the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

The United Arab Republic Government would like to elicit Your Excellency's assistance in facilitating the prompt repatriation of the remains of the three United Arab Republic soldiers.

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

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Abdullah EL-ERIAN
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

ANNEX

Col. Adly El Sherif
Liaison Officer,
Cairo.

Letter No. 565
Cairo, 10 July 1969.

Dear Sir,

Repatriation of mortal remains.

With further reference to my letter No. (564) dated 9 July 1969, and following the operation of the repatriation of the mortal remains of the nine UAR soldiers from occupied Sinai, I have the honour to inform you that following your request my colleagues tried their utmost to include in the same operation the three mortal remains that we failed to repatriate on 23 June 1969.

Unfortunately this was not possible. My colleagues had been answered by one of the responsible officers of the occupying Power that it is no more possible to get the bodies from the mine field that they are lying in. They could have tried the rope but on the one hand the mortal remains are in a rather advanced state of deterioration and on the other hand they could have been subjected to bursting to pieces when touching another mine at the time of pulling.

Hoping that this explanation would answer your request,

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. Boisara
