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LETTER DATED 9 MARCH 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention the latest series of Israeli flagrant violations of the cease-fire and premeditated attacks against the civilian population, houses, economic installations and our armed forces in the Suez Canal sector.

(1) Yesterday, the 8th of March at 1100 hours local time, four United Arab Republic fighters were proceeding with their routine flights over the Suez Canal area when eight Israeli Mirage planes intruded. A fight followed this intrusion resulting in the loss of a plane on each side.

(2) At 1730 hours the Israeli forces opened fire indiscriminately in the zone of Ismailia. Our forces were compelled to return fire in order to protect the inhabitants of the city.

(3) The Israeli attack was later intensified by the use of artillery, mortars and other weapons, and was extended all along the Suez Canal and despite the request of the United Nations Observers to the Israeli forces to cease the firing at 1830 hours, the shelling continued along the Canal from Kantara in the North to Suez in the South.

(4) Though the exchange of fire in the Suez Canal area stopped at 2000 hours local time, the Israeli forces embarked at 2010 hours on a systematic shelling of the refineries in Suez and other civilian installations in the city.

In this connexion, I would like to stress the following facts:

(1) The statement by General Dayan relayed by the Israeli radio on the morning of the same day to the effect of Israel's intention to carry out a military attack against the United Arab Republic.

(2) Israel's preparations for the impending military attack against the United Arab Republic were conspicuously observed. Rockets, artillery and tanks

were exceptionally mobilized on the East Bank of the Canal towards our positions and especially in the Suez Zone.

This wanton aggression has resulted in the loss of life of one civilian and the wounding of fifteen beside the destruction of many houses and civilian installations and the breaking out of fires in Kantara, Ismailia and Suez.

These facts underline the premeditated nature of this latest attack and discloses the real intention of Israel to destroy the vital economic establishments in the Suez Canal area.

It further indicates clearly that Israel continues to pursue its policy of undermining any efforts towards a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. The planning of this latest Israeli aggression at the time when Ambassador Jarring is resuming his contacts in the area exposes Israel's determination to sabotage his mission.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Mohamed Awad EL KONY
Permanent Representative of the
United Arab Republic
to the United Nations
