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LETTER DATED 29 MARCH 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, and further to my two letters of today, to convey to you an additional report concerning the Jordanian violations of the cease-fire which continued throughout the day.

It is now evident that the Jordanian actions constituted a large-scale, deliberate, carefully planned and indiscriminate attack on Israeli villages and the civilian population in the upper Jordan Valley.

In addition to the anti-vehicle mine which caused the death of four Israeli farmers, and which was the subject of my earlier letter, a second mine has in the meantime been detected in the same area (near Shaar Hagolan), and was deactivated.

At approximately 1130 hours local time, Jordanian military positions on the east bank of the Jordan River opened fire on Israeli villages and posts across the river in the Beit Shean and upper Jordan Valley areas. Fire was returned.

At 1150 hours, the Jordanian forces intensified their fire, employing mortars and artillery. The shelling was directed in particular at the villages of Gesher, Beit Yosef and Yardenah. Fire was returned. Subsequently, the Jordanian shelling stopped, but other fire continued.

At 1230 hours, the Jordanian forces resumed their artillery fire on Gesher. At that point it became necessary, in self-defence, to order Israeli aircraft to silence the Jordanian artillery positions.

Between 1300 and 1750 hours Jordanian fire continued intermittently. It was aimed in particular at the villages of Kfar Ruppin, Gesher, Ashdot Yaacov, Massada, Shaar Hagolan and Tel-Katzir. Considerable damage was caused to property, including the childrens' homes at Shaar Hagolan and Tel-Katzir. Four persons were wounded in that sector.

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At 1345 hours Jordanian artillery fire was extended southward along the lower Jordan Valley, as far as Jericho. Fire was returned. One Israeli soldier was killed and three were seriously wounded in that sector. One Israeli plane was hit and was abandoned over the Israeli side of the cease-fire line.

At 1800 hours the exchange of fire stopped along the entire line.

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

Please accept, etc.

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