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LETTER DATED 13 MARCH 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention that today, 13 March 1969, the United Arab Republic forces in the Suez Canal sector have again launched, in flagrant violation of the cease-fire, a large-scale attack against Israel.

Between 1125 and 1139 hours local time the United Arab Republic forces opened fire at several points across the Canal in the Bitter Lake-Port Taufiq area.

At 1405 United Arab Republic forces opened small arms and heavy mortar fire on Israeli positions on the east bank of the Canal, about two kilometres north of Port Taufiq. Fire was returned in self-defence and the exchange continued till 1545 hours.

At 1620 hours the United Arab Republic forces resumed their fire across the Canal south of the Bitter Lake. Fire was returned.

At 1732 hours the Egyptian forces opened up with an artillery barrage along the entire Canal sector from Kilometre 25 in the north to Port Taufiq in the south. Fire was returned by the Israeli forces.

At 1810 hours the UMMOs proposed a cease-fire to take effect at 1915 hours. This was accepted by Israel at 1820 hours. The Israeli forces ceased fire at 1845 hours. The Egyptian attack, however, continued and the Israeli forces were compelled to resume fire.

At 1957 the United Arab Republic forces opened heavy artillery fire at Kilometre 10. Fire was returned.

Firing ceased only at 2045.

Today's attack is another demonstration of the United Arab Republic's policy of aggression which is pursued in violation of the cease-fire and seriously hampers peace-making efforts. Lt. General Odd Bull's reports state unequivocally

that in recent weeks the United Arab Republic forces have been repeatedly initiating attacks in the Suez Canal area. This has been openly confirmed in Egyptian official pronouncements which promise a policy of preventive military action, and "offensive strategy" against Israel and dismiss as unimportant the fact that United Arab Republic forces are the first to open fire.

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

Please accept, Excellency, etc.

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

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