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LETTER DATED 13 MARCH 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention the latest act of aggression committed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Suez Canal sector.

At 17.30 local time, Israeli occupying forces opened fire beginning with small arms. Shortly afterwards firing was intensified through the use of artillery, mortars and rockets in Kantara, Ferdan, Ismailia and Toson. Our armed forces had no alternative but to return fire.

At 17.45 local time, the Israeli forces extended the area of engagement southward to Port Tewfik and Suez, concentrating the shelling on vital installations. Firing stopped at the request of United Nations Military Observers at 19.15 local time.

At 19.55, and despite the cease-fire arranged by the United Nations Military Observers forty minutes earlier, and in flagrant violation of that cease-fire, the Israeli occupying forces resumed their heavy firing which extended all along the Canal from El-Kab southwards to Ismailia, Suez and Port Tewfik concentrating on the industrial area.

A second cease-fire had to be arranged by the United Nations Military Observers at 20.45 in the evening.

As a result of this latest Israeli premeditated attack, some civilians have been killed and many others wounded. Several houses as well as a number of schools, mosques and hospitals were destroyed or damaged.

I feel it necessary to stress that the repeated Israeli attacks against the United Arab Republic and its continued occupation of Arab territories constitute clear violations of the United Nations resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations.

So long as Israel continues to flout the resolutions of the United Nations and in particular, rejects resolution 242 of 22 November 1967, adopted unanimously by the Security Council which calls on Israel to withdraw from the Arab occupied territories any military reinforcements that Israel attempts to install in the Arab occupied territories should be viewed very gravely and considered new aggressions which should be strongly condemned by the international community.

It must seem grotesque that Israel, which still occupies Arab countries as a result of its aggression in June 1967, in defiance of all norms of international law and the principles of the Charter, deems it appropriate to lodge complaints and protests to the United Nations against the victims of its perfidious aggression. Thus, Israel is attempting by deliberate distortions to confuse the issue. Those so-called complaints and protests on the part of Israel should be considered by the United Nations as null and void, as they are based on aggression contradictory to the Security Council resolution and besides, it is condemned by the United Nations Charter.

I am sure that the United Nations will ignore such fictitious complaints as long as Israel continues to reject and fails to implement the Security Council resolution and other resolutions of the United Nations.

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

Please accept, etc.

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