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LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government I have the honour, with reference to the letter addressed to you on 30 September 1968 by the Permanent Representative of Iraq (S/8837), to state the following:

The Security Council's consideration of the report of the Secretary-General of 31 July 1968 (S/8699) began on 20 September 1968 and was concluded on 27 September. The Permanent Representative of Iraq undoubtedly followed the course of the debate in the Council and if he considered that the interests of his country were specially affected, he could have easily availed himself of the facilities for which the Charter and the provisional rules of procedure provide, and have advanced his arguments during the course of that debate. Instead, he chose to wait for ten days after the debate was over before he sent his communication. It is obvious that he was unwilling for his views to be put to the challenge and refuted in the context where they purportedly belong.

The Iraqi letter does not come, however, as a complete surprise. Iraq is well known to be anxious to share in the conspiracy of silence in which the Arab Governments are trying to envelop the persecution of Jews in Arab countries since June 1967. The Government of Iraq has good reasons not to spare any effort to bar international scrutiny of its violation of basic human rights of Jews in its country. The resort by the Permanent Representative of Iraq to disputable legal interpretations or to procedural argumentations, which had been authoritatively rejected in the Council, cannot obscure the tragic human issue involved nor distract from the international duty of examining it directly.

It is a fact that Iraq, of its own choice, entered the Arab war with Israel of May-June 1967 and has since remained an active party in the conflict in the area. In June 1967 Iraqi aircraft carried the war into Israel and its land

forces marched to attack it. In consequence, its territory was affected by actions of the Israeli air force. Furthermore, large Iraqi contingents are still stationed in Jordan and associate themselves in warfare against Israel. As an inseparable aspect of its involvement in the war, Iraq gives expression to its hostility toward Israel also at home. It wreaks vengeance on the defenceless Iraqi Jews whom it treats as scapegoats for public discontent over the results of the war. In spite of persistent efforts by the Government of Iraq to suppress information about this tragic human aspect of the conflict in the area, these facts are already well established and world opinion recognizes the responsibilities of the Iraqi Government for them. Their denial by the Permanent Representative of Iraq reflects his Government's intent to pursue its policy on this matter, and not to be deflected by the reaction of outraged public opinion.

This Iraqi attitude emphasizes the need for the United Nations to fulfil its duty regarding these innocent and defenceless victims of conflict, through a fact-finding mission by a representative of the Secretary-General, as provided in the Security Council resolution 237 (1967).

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
