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LETTER DATED 14 MAY 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 13 May 1968 by the Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon (S/8583) and state the following:

Israel has respected and will continue to respect the cease-fire with Lebanon on a basis of reciprocity. As long as no attacks are carried out from Lebanese territory tranquillity prevails in the Israel-Lebanon sector.

The Government of Lebanon has, however, joined with other Arab Governments in pursuing a policy of active belligerency against Israel. It has allowed the use of its territory by terror organizations through which the Arab States continue to wage warfare against Israel. Lately these activities have been given increasing official support in Lebanon.

The Prime Minister of Lebanon, in a speech delivered on 30 April 1968, publicly pledged support to warfare by terror. He encouraged Lebanese nationals to join organizations conducting such warfare and promised them arms to fight Israel.

The "Al-Jarida" paper of Beirut reported on the same day that recruiting offices had been opened in Lebanon on behalf of the terrorist organizations. Another Lebanese daily "Al-Sayad" wrote on 2 May: "Official sources in Lebanon have noted a fundamental change in the attitude of Lebanese authorities toward the Fedayeen. These sources believe that the authorities are about to lift the restrictions on Fedayeen in Lebanon." On 8 May the Lebanese daily "Al-Safa" reported that "Training centres for Lebanese young men who join the Fedayeen movement have been established in the town of Sidon."

In a statement made on 6 May, the Lebanese Prime Minister reiterated his Government's support for the terrorist warfare. This served apparently as a signal for a well-organized armed attack against Israel on the following night.

On 7 May at 2235 hours local time the Israeli village of Manara was shelled from Lebanese territory across the cease-fire line. Israel forces did not return fire.

Another attack occurred at midnight on 12 May. The Israeli village Margaliyot was shelled by mortars from the direction of the Lebanese village of Houle. This time fire was returned in self-defence.

It is regrettable that Arab regular and irregular forces frequently choose to emplace their firing positions within or adjacent to inhabited points, thus exposing the local civilian population to the hazards of Arab aggression.

These armed attacks from Lebanon constitute flagrant violations of the cease-fire for which the Government of Lebanon must be held responsible.

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

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