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LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter of 24 July 1968 (A/7143, S/8690) addressed to you by the Chargé d'Affaires of Jordan.

The problem of persons displaced in the wake of the June 1967 hostilities is a direct consequence of Arab aggression. Had there been peace between the Arab States and Israel, this problem would not have arisen.

On 6 August 1967, following talks between representatives of Israel and Jordan, an agreement was signed between the two Governments for the return of displaced persons at a rate of 3,000 a day. The agreement was for a period until 31 August 1967. The Jordanian authorities, however, failed to produce the stipulated daily number of returnees. After the expiration of the agreement on 31 August 1967, Israel announced that those thousands of West Bank residents who had received entry permits, but had not returned by the stipulated date, would be permitted to do so without a time-limit being fixed. At meetings between Israel and Jordanian representatives at the Allenby Bridge, in the presence of Red Cross representatives, detailed technical arrangements were made for the return. Jordan failed to carry out these arrangements and Jordanian representatives admitted frankly that their authorities were unable to produce at the crossing point any of the thousands of persons concerned.

In these circumstances, the Israel Government decided on a further humanitarian step and initiated a family reunion scheme. This scheme is still under way, though its implementation and extent cannot but be affected by Jordan's pursuance of active warfare against Israel.

* Also issued under the symbol A/7160.

With regard to the projected humanitarian mission by a representative of the Secretary-General, the delay in its execution is caused solely by Arab obstruction and refusal to allow him to look into the tragic plight of the Jewish communities in the Arab States. No humanitarian mission on behalf of the United Nations could acquiesce in the Arab refusal to investigate the discrimination and oppression of Jews in Arab States following last year's hostilities.

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

Please accept, etc.

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