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LETTER DATED 21 JUNE 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, to convey to you excerpts from the statement recently made on 19 June 1968 by General Moshe Dayan, the Defence Minister of Israel. The statement demonstrates the designs which the Israeli authorities, in utter contempt and disregard of the resolutions of the United Nations, harbour towards the Arab lands they occupy as a result of their aggression committed on 5 June 1967.

It is significant to note that, while the United Arab Republic Government has reaffirmed on several occasions, and as late as 9 May 1968, to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General its acceptance and readiness to implement resolution 242 (1967) adopted by the Security Council in November 1967, the Israeli authorities are still pursuing their expansionist policy as is clear from the statement of General Dayan.

I would like to request, Your Excellency, that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

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

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ANNEX

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan has declared there is no foreseeable solution in the Middle East crisis and Israel must prepare to retain the territories captured during last year's mid-east war.

In remarks made public yesterday Dayan said parts of the Sinai Peninsula, including Sharm El Sheikh which guards the approaches to the Tiran Straits, must be retained permanently by Israel.

"If we want to guarantee ourselves against Egypt then we must always keep a considerable part of our armour in various parts of Sinai which we must not give up," Dayan declared.

In a security review to parliamentary members of Premier Levi Eshkol's Labour Party, Dayan rejected United Nations Security Council resolutions, and said the decisive factor as far as Israel was concerned was the United States position.

Dayan also declared there was no serious prospect of Soviet intervention in the Middle East and predicted no military moves by the United Arab Republic.

"We don't believe war is near," he said. Predicting the current situation would continue for "a long time" Dayan said Israel could not agree to division of the west bank of the Jordan River which she overran in the June war last year nor, he said, could there be a return to the previous armistice line dividing Israel and Jordan.

Israel must be prepared to continue its present policy in occupied territories because there was no prospect of a change, he said.

Dayan gave mild support to a plan by Labour Minister Yigal Allon for the creation of a neutralized or demilitarized Arab State, but said this could only be envisaged in the context of search for peace. It could not be accepted as a final solution.

On the international position in the mid-east, Dayan said Israel must clarify its position to the United States State Department. While America could accept decisions by the Security Council and Jordan's condition for peace, Israel could not. Dayan also stressed we cannot retreat on the issue of Jerusalem's "reunification".

The Defence Chief said he believed Egypt would do all it could to bring about Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories through political means, but not militarily.

On the policy towards Arabs in the occupied lands, Dayan said Israel must maintain a "correct attitude" and act so they would not "become fed up with us".

But Dayan opposed giving Israel citizenship to Arabs in the territories.

Dayan added to the parliamentary members that it serves no purpose to play with words and pretend that the resolution does not require the withdrawal from the occupied territories. For Dayan the attitude of the United States has more importance for Israel than the Security Council resolution.
