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LETTER DATED 29 SEPTEMBER 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw the attention of the Security Council to a gross violation of the cease-fire by the military forces of the United Arab Republic on 27 September 1967. As a result of the Egyptian hostilities, heavy casualties were inflicted on the civilian population and the military forces in the Sinai.

Following is a description of the events of 27 September:

1. At 1030 hours, local time, machine-gun fire was opened from United Arab Republic positions in the area of Deversoir (at the north-western part of the Great Bitter Lake) on an Israeli motor patrol in the Sinai.

2. At approximately 1135 hours, Egyptian tanks in the same area started to shell Israeli military positions in the Sinai. Fire was returned.

At approximately the same time, United Arab Republic artillery, in the area of Ismailia, started to shell Israeli positions in the Sinai, thus broadening the area of the incident to about twenty kilometres. Fire was returned. The shelling by the United Arab Republic artillery and the return of fire continued until approximately 1220 hours in contravention of a cease-fire proposal which it had been agreed would take effect at 1145 hours.

3. At 1210 hours, United Arab Republic artillery in the area of Deversoir, started to shell Israeli positions in the Sinai. Fire was returned.

4. At 1220 hours, a cease-fire took effect. However, two minutes later, United Arab Republic artillery resumed shelling and other positions in the area of Ismailia opened small arms and mortar fire on Israeli positions in the Sinai. Fire was not returned.

5. At 1340 hours, United Arab Republic artillery resumed shelling of Israeli positions approximately fifteen kilometres south of Ismailia.

6. At 1350 hours, Egyptian tank fire and artillery shelling was directed at a train travelling in the Sinai between Lake Timsah and Qantara. Subsequently,

United Arab Republic artillery shelling covered a front of approximately 100 kilometres between Qantara in the north to Suez in the south. Fire was returned.

7. At 1400 hours, United Nations observers, United Nations observers proposed a cease-fire for 1420 hours. In spite of a consent given by the United Arab Republic authorities, their forces continued to fire, and it was necessary to return the fire. Subsequent proposals for cease-fire to take effect at 1500, 1530, 1545, 1615, and 1630 hours were not respected by the United Arab Republic forces.

8. At 1630 hours, the United Arab Republic forces decreased the heavy shelling and limited the area of the incident to the Suez. Fire was returned.

9. Until 1755 hours, sporadic shelling by United Arab Republic artillery continued in the area of Suez. At 1755 hours, quiet was restored all along the Suez Canal.

As a result of the incident, four Israeli soldiers were killed. Five civilians, two Israelis and three residents of El Arish, were killed as a result of the shelling of the train. Five civilians were killed at Qantara. Ten soldiers and one civilian were wounded.

This incident brings the sequence of events along the Suez Canal to a climax. The United Arab Republic authorities are trying to keep the area in constant tension by acts of war, and have inflicted heavy casualties amongst civilians and military alike by indiscriminate shelling.

All the activities initiated and perpetrated by the United Arab Republic are in complete and open defiance of the cease-fire resolutions of the Security Council and of assurances given recently to General Bull in Cairo to respect fully the cease-fire. Even the cease-fire proposals from the United Nations observers, accepted by the United Arab Republic authorities, were not respected. No excuse of lack of co-ordination and interruption in the lines of communication in the United Arab Republic chain of command can be accepted as justification, either for initiating the incident or for not respecting the cease-fire commitments.

The Government of Israel reiterates its policy to respect the cease-fire, on the understanding that the United Arab Republic will also act in complete reciprocity.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Gideon RAFAEL  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations

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