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LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I should be grateful if, in connexion with the temporary adjournment of the fifth emergency special session of the General Assembly, you would take the necessary steps to circulate as an official Security Council document the attached "Statement by the Soviet Government" of 22 July 1967.^{1/}

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO

^{1/} Also issued under the symbol A/6771.

STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT

The emergency special session of the General Assembly which was convened to consider the question of eliminating the consequences of the aggression committed by Israel against the Arab States was adjourned temporarily on 21 July 1967. Under the decision adopted by the Assembly, all its records are being forwarded to the Security Council in order to facilitate consideration by the Council, as a question of exceptional importance, of the tense situation in the Middle East. The President of the General Assembly was authorized to reconvene it as and when necessary.

The emergency special session of the General Assembly marked an important stage in the struggle of the peace-loving States to eliminate as quickly as possible the consequences of Israel's aggression. It made this question a central concern of world public opinion. The entire proceedings of the session showed that a substantial majority of States Members of the United Nations are sincerely concerned with defending the legitimate rights and interests of the Arab peoples which have been victims of aggression and that they condemn the aggressor and support the demand for the withdrawal of Israel's forces from the occupied Arab territories.

Through its adoption by an overwhelming majority of two resolutions demanding that Israel should desist from taking any action to annex the Arab section of Jerusalem, the General Assembly made it clear that it was opposed to recognizing in any way the results of Israel's aggression. In so doing, it reaffirmed the principle that it is inadmissible to employ force for the purpose of acquiring territory - one of the most important of the legal and political principles of the United Nations Charter on which peaceful relations between States are based.

The political intrigues carried on by Israel and the States which support it as well as their attempts to evade responsibility for the aggression and even obtain encouragement from the United Nations to retain the occupied Arab lands merely served to expose further their true expansionist aims. With the exception of Israel itself and two or three of its principal protectors, headed by the United States, no one in the General Assembly dared to justify the aggressor. It is highly significant that the United States was, in fact, obliged to refrain from

pressing for a vote in the General Assembly on its draft resolution aimed at shielding the aggressor and rewarding him for his attack on the Arab countries.

It remains a fact, however, that the General Assembly proved unable to adopt a decision on the main question, namely the withdrawal of Israel's forces from the occupied Arab territories to the positions they held before the start of the aggression. In the voting on 4 July, the draft resolution of the non-aligned countries, which contained a clear-cut demand for the immediate withdrawal of all Israel's forces from Arab territories, received the votes of the socialist, Arab and many Afro-Asian States and also of some Western European States which are pursuing an independent foreign policy in international affairs. The Soviet draft resolution, which called for condemnation of the aggressor and the immediate withdrawal of his forces from the occupied territories and called upon the aggressor to make good the damage he had inflicted on the Arab States, also received substantial support in the General Assembly. However, neither the draft resolution of the non-aligned States nor the Soviet draft resolution was adopted, since they received fewer votes than the number required for approval.

The subsequent consultations, which continued right up to the time the session was adjourned, did not lead to the drafting of a resolution embodying a solution of the problem of the withdrawal of Israel's forces that would be supported by the required majority of delegations. The Assembly's work therefore ended with the adoption of a purely procedural resolution forwarding its records to the Security Council.

The following question arises: who prevented the General Assembly from discharging its duty in accordance with the purposes set forth in the United Nations Charter, which strictly prohibits aggressive acts? There can be only one answer to that question: what prevented the General Assembly from taking an effective decision on the elimination of the consequences of Israel's aggression and the withdrawal of Israel's forces from the seized territories was the position taken by the United States, some of its allies and those States that were subjected to United States pressure and blackmail, which were applied at the decisive moment in a crudely uncerecermonious manner.

The Soviet Government expresses the firm conviction that all peace-loving States must continue their efforts to compel the aggressor to withdraw his forces

from the occupied Arab territories. So long as the forces of the aggressor are on Arab territory and so long as Israel, with reckless insolence, makes territorial and other claims on neighbouring Arab countries, there will be no peace in the Middle East. The acts of military provocation being staged by Israel in the Suez Canal area demonstrate that a resumption of the war can be expected any day.

A crucially important task now faces the Security Council, to which the General Assembly has forwarded the records of its emergency special session. In its further consideration of the question of eliminating the consequences of Israel's aggression, the Security Council will have to take fully into account the desire of a majority of States, clearly expressed at the session, to achieve a constructive solution of this problem and, first and foremost, the withdrawal of Israel's forces from the Arab lands which they have seized. The Soviet Government for its part is prepared, as before, to co-operate with all peace-loving States in attaining that aim.

The Soviet Government also reiterates that the Soviet Union, together with the other socialist States, will continue to give the Arab States political support in their just struggle for their legitimate rights as well as assistance in restoring and developing their economy and in strengthening their defensive capacity.

On the other hand, those States which, through the position they have adopted, have so far prevented a solution of the problem of eliminating the consequences of Israel's aggression will, unless they revise their policy, assume a heavy responsibility before all peoples.

