

UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/7682  
13 January 1967

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1967 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to Your Excellency by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Yemen on 3 January, circulated as Security Council document S/7674, in which complaints were made about the alleged overflight by British aircraft of Yemeni territory on 12 December 1966, and alleged attacks by these aircraft on two Yemeni patrol posts.

The allegations in that letter have been thoroughly investigated and I am now instructed to inform Your Excellency that there is no truth whatever in them. There were in fact no British aircraft in the air in the area concerned on 12 December.

I have also been instructed to bring to Your Excellency's attention two incidents which did occur in the same area on 19 and 28 December. At 1030 hours on the morning of 19 December, two Royal Air Force Hawker Hunter aircraft flying within the frontiers of the Federation of South Arabia in the vicinity of Dhala came under medium machine-gun fire from the town of Qataba in Yemen. The British aircraft did not cross the frontier at any time. A strong protest at this unprovoked attack from the territory of the Yemen is being conveyed by my Government through the United States Government, as the protecting Power, to the Yemeni Republican authorities.

On 28 December, at 1640 hours, the village of Awabil in Shaib State in Federation Territory was attacked by some thirty-five men. During the attack, which lasted over an hour, forty mortar bombs were fired by the attackers. Two local women were killed and three shops were burned out. The Federal forces, who killed three of the attackers, have testified that they were all Yemeni soldiers in uniform. The Government of the Federation of South Arabia have issued a statement protesting at this attack and demanding full compensation.

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I should be grateful if Your Excellency would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a Security Council document.

I avail myself of this opportunity, etc.

(Signed) R.W. JACKLING

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