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LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1967 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The grave deterioration of the situation along the border between my country and Syria impels the Government of Israel to bring the following to the urgent attention of the Security Council.

On the night of 13 January 1967, at approximately 2240 hours, two explosive charges were blown up at the water pumping station of the village of Dishon, at a distance of about thirty metres from the dwelling houses of the village. The site of the explosion is located at a distance of about two kilometres from the border with Lebanon. Three other demolition charges were found and dismantled. As a result of the explosion extensive damage was caused to the pumping station.

A note was left by the marauders, written in Hebrew, containing threats against Israel in abusive language. The note claimed responsibility for the outrage by a so-called group named after an officer of the Syrian Army. Incoming footprints of four persons were discovered leading from the Lebanese border to the site of the explosion.

On the morning of 14 January, at 1100 hours, an anti-personnel mine exploded at the village of Dishon in a soccer field during a game. The mine was detonated when hit by one of the players. One spectator was killed and two others were injured, one of them seriously. Another anti-personnel mine was discovered at the same place and dismantled. It was of Czechoslovakian make, in use in the Syrian Army. The identification marks of the mine were covered by a crude layer of paint. A complaint was lodged with the Israel-Lebanon Mixed Armistice Commission.

During the course of the investigation it was discovered that the outgoing footprints of the marauders led in an easterly direction to the Syrian border in the area of the Syrian military position of Tel Hillal at a distance of about twelve kilometres from Dishon. Consequently complaints were lodged with the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission.

On the same day, 14 January, at 1815 hours, fire was directed at Israeli fishing boats on Lake Kinneret, from the Syrian military positions at the villages of Nuqeib and El Koursi. The fire lasted over half an hour. Fire was returned from a patrol boat.

Today, 15 January, at 1210 hours, recoilless-gun and machine-gun fire that lasted for fifteen minutes was directed at an Israeli patrol boat on Lake Kinneret, from the Syrian military position at Nuqeib. Fire was returned.

The four attacks mentioned above are the culmination of more than two weeks of unrestrained Syrian aggression along the border of and inside Israel. The crimes committed yesterday at the village of Dishon are of the same pattern as previous mining and sabotage activities by Syria. The use of a nefarious stratagem in order to inflict death and injury, resembles the attack near the village of Shaar HaGolan, as reported to the Security Council in document S/7536 of 10 October 1966, which was the subject of a debate in the Security Council.

It is also noteworthy that in three other incidents in the vicinity of the Syrian border (Kfar Giladi on 30 April 1966, at Kfar Yuval on 14 July 1966, and at Margaliot on 20 July 1966), explosives and containers of the same types were found.

Another recent incident which adds to the pattern of infiltration and violence inside Israel's territory along its northern border since the beginning of the year, was the explosion which blew up a tool shed on the night of 2-3 January 1967, near the village of Adamit, approximately ten metres from the border of Lebanon. A complaint was lodged with the Israel-Lebanon Mixed Armistice Commission.

The ugly and brutal attacks against the peaceful villagers of Dishon and their property came at the end of two weeks of Syrian aggression. These included illegal crossings of the border, deliberate shooting on Israeli citizens and shooting at farmers while working in their fields, indiscriminate shelling by tanks of populated areas, laying of mines in villages and on roadways, and shooting at Israeli fishermen on Lake Kinneret.

The shocking attacks at Dishon are of a particularly sinister connotation, since they lay bare a deliberate plan to cause large-scale loss of life, to sow terror and confusion and to disrupt normal life inside Israel.

My Government draws the attention of the Security Council to the strict obligations which the General Armistice Agreements between Israel and Syria, and between Israel and Lebanon, impose on those Governments. The Government of Israel is duty-bound to stress that the Syrian aggression against Israel, carried out both directly across the border and by devious ways, brings the tension to a new height, which cannot be viewed but with the most grave concern.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Joel BARROMI
Acting Permanent Representative
