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LETTER DATED 30 DECEMBER 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government to draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to fresh instances of armed raids into Israel territory for the purpose of laying land mines on roadways.

On 9 December 1966, two land mines of the British Mark II type were discovered and de-activated on a track in the Lachish area adjacent to the Hebron sector. They had been laid within forty-eight hours prior to their discovery, about two kilometres from each other, and at distances of about two-and-a-half kilometres and 800 metres respectively, from the Jordan border. It was difficult to follow the tracks owing to a recent rain storm. From leaflets found in the vicinity of each mine, in Arabic and crude Hebrew, it appeared that the El-Fatah organization claimed to be responsible for the mine-laying. These two incidents were reported to and investigated by the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission.

On 28 December 1966, a British Mark II land mine was discovered and de-activated on a track running parallel to the Israel-Syrian border, at a distance of three metres from the border. A complaint was lodged with the Israel-Syria Mixed Armistice Commission. During the course of the investigation carried out by United Nations Military Observers, footprints of one person were observed leading from the site to the border.

On 29 December, another British Mark II land mine was discovered on the same track about 200 metres west of the mine discovered the day before. In this case too footprints of one person were found leading from the site to the Syrian border, a distance of some three to four metres.

It should be noted that this type of military anti-tank mine is in regular use by the Syrian Armed Forces. The same type of mine was used in many previous incidents reported to the Council.

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Members of the Council are familiar with the pattern of terrorist and sabotage raids into Israel for the last two years, and there can be no doubt about the danger to peace and security in the area constituted by this type of organized guerilla activity from neighbouring States into Israel territory.

My Government takes a grave view of the resumption of these raids. My Government must insist that the Arab Governments concerned carry out their obligations under the terms of the General Armistice Agreements and take the necessary action to ensure the immediate cessation of these outrages, which are in gross violation of the Armistice Agreements.

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) Michael COMAY
Permanent Representative