



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/7867
2 May 1967

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 MAY 1967 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF JORDAN
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter No. AD 631/5(2)UNTSO dated 24 April 1967, addressed to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jordan, in reply to our letter to you dated 23 August 1966, No. PAL-13/426, regarding a claim for reparation in connexion with the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Flint, of the Canadian Army, on Mount Scopus on 26 May 1958, while serving on behalf of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine.

My Government wishes to reaffirm its position as stated in our letter to you dated 23 August 1966, in which we stated that the whole chain of events which culminated in the unfortunate death of Lt.-Colonel Flint was originated and had commenced with Israeli violation of the Mount Scopus Area Agreement, and that the bullet that caused the death of Lt.-Colonel Flint came from an Israeli position, and that, therefore, the Israeli authorities are fully and solely responsible and liable to pay as reparation the monetary damage borne by the United Nations and the Canadian Government in connexion with the death of Lt.-Colonel Flint.

We would like to elaborate on the said clear position by quoting the following words of General Carl Von Horn, the Commander of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine from 1958-1963, as stated in pages 83-85 of his book, "Soldiering for Peace".

"It blew up around Mount Scopus this time, where the activities of the Jewish 'Police' garrison operating from behind a wire fence around the grounds and buildings of the Old Haddassah Hospital and the Hebrew University were arousing grave concern. Although the whole of the disputed area on these pine-covered slopes was officially under the supervision of the United Nations, the Israelis had always prevented us from carrying out our task. Now the garrison had taken to sending out armed patrols to harry their Arab neighbours in the dusty little village

of Issawya, insulting them and virtually sealing them off behind road blocks as soon as darkness fell. They were penetrating, too, into another area known as Solomon's Gardens, which they claimed was Israeli territory.

"At the root of the trouble was the old problem of conflicting maps. But it could only be a matter of time before the Jordanian troops who were forced to watch their brother villagers being harried, would take vigorous counter-action. When I pointed this out to the Israelis they showed not the slightest interest. Some time before Dag's special representative, Dr. Urrutia, had come out especially to try and settle the Scopus issue, but had been turned back by Israeli troops while visiting the area in full view of hundreds of watching Arabs. It struck me as unlikely I was going to be able to do much better.

"However, the daily reports of worsening tension from Colonel Flint (the Chairman of our Jordan-Israel M.A.C.) made it imperative I should try. I therefore advised the Israeli Foreign Office that I intended to make a visit to Mount Scopus - and was a trifle amused when they asked for several days' notice so that they could prepare a suitable guard of honour. As this seemed superfluous, I decided to go straight ahead, and drove up to the entrance gate of the Jewish enclave in my green staff car. The Commandant of the 'Police' received me politely enough, and conducted me on a tour of the whole area inside the wire fence. Before I left, I told him that I would come back the following day, using the route which led from the Arab side. It was essential to do this since otherwise one was unable to get a clear impression of the disputed area.

"Next day, I drove up to the Arab village of Issawya following exactly the same route which Dr. Urrutia had taken. I reached the village and talked to the Mukhtar, who expressed himself strongly on the indignities his villagers were being made to suffer. And then still following Dr. Urrutia's trail, I left my car and walked up the steep winding road towards the wire of the Jewish enclave.

"Behind the wire, I noticed a flurry of activity. I continued on and was having a look at a couple of houses on the slope which had been the subject of particularly bitter dispute, when a panting and heavily-armed 'Police' squad under the command of an officer appeared, formed a line across the path and refused to let me go any further. Although the Armistice Agreement had put me in direct control of this area, there was little I could do in face of such a determined show of force. I had taken the precaution of bringing a walkie-talkie set with me, so I advised my headquarters what had happened, and with the best grace I could muster, walked back down the hill, got into my staff car and drove to Government House.

"Clearly the discomfiture which Dr. Urrutia had suffered had been re-enacted for my especial benefit. I have no doubt it was staged deliberately, since the sight of the U.N. Chief of Staff being turned back in an area where he had every right to be was hardly likely to raise the prestige of the U.N. with the Arabs. But when I protested officially to Mrs. Meir, her only explanation was the rather inappropriate rejoinder: 'We Jews do not like to be pushed around.'

"Consequently, I had to leave the investigations to Colonel Flint and his team of observers. Flint was a fine soldier (a D.S.O.), who had already been badly wounded by a mine in this area some time before. He reported increasingly strong patrol activity, and I had every reason to rely on his considered opinion that unless steps were taken to check the Israeli patrols immediately, there was bound to be fighting.

"By 23 May, the situation had become so acute that I paid another visit to Mrs. Meir and told her that in my opinion unless the patrols were stopped there would be bloodshed within the next week. 'Frank' as ever, Mrs. Meir was still plainly determined not to be 'pushed around', and despite explicit warnings, pooh-poohed the whole issue.

"Three days later, an Israeli patrol in Solomon's Gardens was heavily fired on. Two of its soldiers were killed immediately, and the subsequent exchange of fire was both fierce and prolonged. Colonel Flint rushed up in an effort to intervene and rescue the survivors who had gone to ground. In the confused shooting which ensued, two more Israelis were killed, and Colonel Flint was shot dead. It was a senseless, stupid, unnecessary skirmish which could so easily have been prevented.

"The investigation which followed was little more than a farce. Our observers (at long last allowed inside the wire fence) soon discovered, whilst cross-examining the Israeli 'Police' Commandant, that every inconvenient question was followed by his withdrawal to another room to receive guidance and instruction over his radio. Feelings in Israel ran high. There was great bitterness about their dead and, as we might have anticipated, it was now the United Nations who were painted in the blackest colours. Our warnings, all our efforts, were conveniently forgotten, and we were now accused of having precipitated the incident. Mourning poor Flint (although his body had been returned, we were prevented from visiting the spot where he had been killed) we were amazed at the ingenuity of the falsehoods which distorted the true picture. The highly skilled Israeli Information Service and the entire press combined to manufacture a warped, distorted version which was disseminated with professional expertise through every available channel to their own people and their sympathizers and supporters in America and the rest of the world. Never in all my life had I believed the truth could be so cynically, expertly bent."

Please note, italics supplied.

S/7867
English
Page 4

Due to the fact that the issues involved are important to the United Nations Members in general, I respectfully request that my letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Waleed M. SADI
Chargé d'Affaires
