UNITED NATIONS

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LETTER DATED 8 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 4 May 1967, regarding the claim for reparation in connexion with the death of Lt. 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 make the following observations regarding Your Excellency's reply:

- 1. My Government has full confidence in the integrity of General von Horn who faithfully and earnestly served the United Nations without any motive whatsoever to distort facts.
- 2. Although the United Nations must necessarily depend on United Nations official reports for its actions, it must be pointed out that such official reports must be presumed accurate and true only until proven otherwise. There is no kind of evidence that cannot be challenged, and in the case at bar, the burden "to prove otherwise" has been willingly assumed by Jordan.
- 3. The source of the official United Nations report on which the United Nations depends in its claim for reparation and the source of the rebuttal evidence that I cited in my letter to Your Excellency on 1 May 1967 are the same. If, as you have outlined in your letter of 4 May 1967, "the detailed nature of General von Horn's report and the firm conclusions included in it, would seem, to say the least, to be strongly at variance with the view concerning the nature of the investigation expressed in his book some six or seven years later", it necessarily follows, therefore, that the facts pertaining to the case in question are still in dispute and in need of further clarification and investigation.

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- 4. My Government maintains that it has the right to address itself to any matter as it sees fit in order to prove its case.
- 5. My Government is most willing to discuss the ways and means to ascertain the facts pertaining to the case in question.

I would appreciate it if my letter is circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Waleed M. SADI Chargé d'Affaires