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LETTER DATED 18 JULY 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Acting on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention and that of the members of the Security Council to a new act of aggression, committed by the Israeli authorities against the territory, the population and the property of the Syrian Arab Republic.

At 17 hours 10 minutes local time, in the afternoon of 14 July 1966, a number of Israeli jet fighters and bombers violated the Syrian air space, shelled seven Syrian areas all situated in the site of Jordan river's development scheme, hit mechanical and engineering equipment, destroyed bulldozers with napalm bombs, wounded nine civilians and killed one woman.

As though to corroborate the premeditation of this shameful aggression, the Israeli Broadcasting Service almost immediately went on the air to proudly announce this news, and the Israeli Representative to the United Nations only a few hours after the attack hastened to hand to the United Nations an apparently already prepared letter attempting to minimize the crime, by falsely attributing it to previous unproven incidents, and by using such terms as the Israeli air force being "ordered to take strictly limited action" and carrying out a "brief attack". And as though to ascribe to himself and to his authorities a role substituting that of the United Nations, the Security Council and the Mixed Armistice Commission, he arrogantly referred to his authorities as having "regarded" this action "as appropriate in the circumstances". Still, the Israeli Representative was not able to disguise the confession of his authorities' guilt, or the atrocity of their condemnable wanton aggression.

The truth, Sir, is that the Syrian Arab Republic cannot - and this fact has been repeatedly emphasized - be held responsible for the activities of El-Fateh and El-Asefa. Unless proven that an infiltration or an act of sabotage, as referred to in the terminology of the Israeli Representative, emanates from Syrian

territory, no blame can logically be attached to the Syrian Arab Republic. At the risk of repetition, I wish to point out that this fact has been affirmed in the clearest terms in my recent two letters to the Security Council of 11 May (S/7288) and 25 May (S/7320). In this connexion, the machinery competent to carry out such an investigation is obviously the Mixed Armistice Commission, whose meetings the Israeli authorities have been boycotting, for fear of exposure of their fallacious arguments.

The Israeli claims that Syria is responsible for four incidents which allegedly took place on 13 and 14 July, have been categorically denied by the Syrian military spokesman, and refuted before the Mixed Armistice Commission. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms once again that the Israeli assertion that infiltrators proceed from Syria is groundless. Nor is Syria responsible for the rise of Palestinian Arab organizations striving to liberate their conquered and occupied territory, and cannot possibly stop 1 million Arab refugees from struggling to restore their right to return to their homeland, a right which has been recognized and confirmed by various solemn United Nations resolutions. Had the Israeli intentions been sincere, Israel would have resorted to the Mixed Armistice Commission, the international organ created for such a purpose.

Thus, the justification given by Israeli authorities for the air attack is misleading. This should become clear when we exactly define the area of the attack; for that is the area in which an economic development plan of vital importance to Syria and neighbouring Arab countries is taking place, within Arab territory. Israeli officials made no secret that they will prevent the execution of this plan by force and they did in fact attack that same area several times previously. Within this context, the Israeli authorities, actively engaged as they are in usurping the Arab waters of the Jordan river, are determined to prevent any Arab country proceeding to the good use of its waters, even inside Arab territory. No marginal issue artificially built up, can mask this fundamental Israeli aggressive attitude, especially vis-a-vis Arab waters, for it goes to the earliest days of Zionist colonization in Palestine and is intimately related to Israeli Zionist scheming against the rights of the Arabs.

For this purpose, one has only to look at the Israeli record in the annals of the United Nations since the establishment of this State, to see its essentially

aggressive nature. This is indeed proved by the fact that no other Member of the United Nations, or non-member, has ever been condemned, censured or rebuked by the principal organs of the United Nations as much as Israel has been.

The Syrian Government in two letters addressed to the Security Council on 11 and 25 May 1966 (S/7288 and S/7320) has warned of an impending aggression by Israel against Syria. What happened on 14 July proves beyond any doubt the accuracy of Syria's expressed concern. This latest act of Israeli aggression, committed in flagrant violation of the General Armistice Agreement, in defiance of the United Nations, its values, principles and organs, constitutes a clear provocation to Syria and a threat to the peace of the whole region of the Middle East for which Israel alone is to be held responsible.

The Syrian Arab Republic, having confined itself once again to repel the aggression, wonders how long the Israeli acts of lawlessness and crime would continue unpunished. No request to the United Nations, to the Security Council and to all peace-loving States, can be more sincere than the one to ponder over the intentions and conduct of the Israelis, who pay lip service to the reign of peace, and do their utmost to spread destruction, hatred and tension. In the opinion of the Syrian Arab Republic, the consequences of such deterioration are of the utmost gravity, and the vigilance and preparation which they call for are imperative.

I shall be grateful, Sir, if you will kindly circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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