



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/7326
31 May 1966

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 29 MAY 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to make the following observations on the letter of 24 May 1966 (S/7320) addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Syria.

(a) It is noteworthy that the Syrian letter makes a general denial of responsibility for the El-Fatah terrorist organization, but does not try to refute the specific facts indicating such responsibility, as set out in my letter of 16 May 1966 (S/7296).

(b) Israel has been faced for years with a constant succession of armed attacks, sabotage, terror and murder perpetrated by regular and irregular forces under the direct control of Syrian governments and openly encouraged and incited by them. The latest example of such incitement was provided as recently as 22 May 1966, one week ago, by the President of Syria, Dr. Nureddin al Atassi, in a speech to officers of the south-western front. Dr. Al-Atassi said that it was "time to use these weapons" which had been stockpiled by the Arab States for use against Israel. The Israel enemy, he said "knows the extent of your thirst for battle". "We are waiting for this battle". He proclaimed, "We raise the slogan of the people's liberation war. We want total war with no limits, a war that will not only destroy the Zionist base ... the people" he said, "look forward to battle ...". This is direct and open incitement to war, contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of the Israel-Syrian General Armistice Agreement and the basic principles of international law. It is not only a threat to Israel but a challenge to all peace-loving members of the international community.

(c) The Syrian letter states that "in the two months of March and April 1966, Syrian authorities presented over 220 complaints to MAC ...". It is unclear whom this statistic is meant to impress or mislead. These are routine complaints,

and the Mixed Armistice Commission has a backlog of approximately 60,000 like them. It might be added that Israel complaints against Syria for the last month (April) alone total 353, some of them of a grave character.

(d) The Syrian letter does not produce a single shred of contemporary evidence for attributing aggressive intent to Israel. The position of the Government of Israel on these Syrian allegations was defined by the Prime Minister in a statement to the Press yesterday, on 28 May. Mr. Eshkol emphatically rejected the rumours and imputations broadcast by Syria concerning so-called Israeli threats to Syrian security. "The sincere desire of Israel for peace with her neighbours", he said, "has been proclaimed time and time again from the rostrums of our Knesset and of the United Nations and other international bodies. It is Syria that provokes constant trouble on the borders. It is from Syria that murderers have come to kill peaceful citizens working their fields in Israel, as took place at Almagor only a few days ago, and it is Syria which proclaims her intention to attack Israel". The Prime Minister went on to describe new Syrian concentrations of tanks and artillery in the prohibited defensive zone north of the Sea of Galilee, and stated that there were grounds for suspicion that the Syrian allegations against Israel were designed to disguise sinister intentions. Mr. Eshkol concluded by saying that "Israel's resolute desire to preserve peace and tranquility on the borders imposes upon her a policy of restraint to the limits of her capacity as a humane and civilized people".

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Michael COMAY
Permanent Representative
