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LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1957 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose a memorandum on recent events in the neighbourhood of the Aden/Yemeni frontier to which the Chairman of the Yemeni Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations referred in his letter to you of January 14. - S/3773.

I request that this memorandum should be circulated to all members of the United Nations.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Pierson Dixon

MEMORANDUM

On January 14 the Head of the Yemeni Delegation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council a letter containing allegations about certain incidents which took place near the Aden/Yemeni frontier on January 8 and 9. These incidents have now been investigated and the following facts established.

Just before midnight on January 8 guard posts of the Government of the Aden Protectorate at Sufra and Jalila, near Dhala, were fired on by rebels inspired by the Government of Yemen. Security forces of the Aden Protectorate pursued the rebels to the frontier post at Sanah in the Aden Protectorate, and continued to return their fire as they retreated to Qataba.

No British aircraft or ground forces have been in action at Assoma. It is also untrue that British aircraft flew over Harib airfield. When Yemeni forces attacked Sudaqiya, which is in the Aden Protectorate, the defenders were supported by British aircraft which did not, however, cross the frontier at any point.

Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom take this opportunity to point out that over a long period the Government of Yemen has encouraged its tribespeople to violate the frontier of the Aden Protectorate, has subverted and armed the subjects of the Rulers of the small Arab states under British protection and has put up a smokescreen of protests and propaganda about alleged British intrusions into the Yemen, all of which have on investigation been proved to be consistently and patently untrue.

Her Majesty's Government nevertheless hope that it may be possible to settle outstanding frontier problems in direct talks with representatives of Yemeni Government. On December 4, 1956, the Yemeni Government proposed that representatives of the Aden and Yemeni Governments should meet near the Aden/Yemeni frontier. Her Majesty's Government consulted the Rulers of the Aden Protectorate on this proposal. The Rulers agreed that such a meeting should take place. One of them, the Sherif of Beihan, gave his approval subject to the condition that Yemeni forces should first withdraw from posts which they had recently occupied in his territory, and that they should restore the customary use of the water source at Husn Fagih from which Nejd Marquad, in the Aden Protectorate, is supplied. On January 14 Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Taiz was instructed to offer the Yemeni Government talks on these conditions. So far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, no reply has yet been received from the Yemeni Government.

It is the hope of Her Majesty's Government that this frontier meeting will take place and that following it the Yemeni Government will agree to form a joint Anglo-Yemeni commission to demarcate the disputed areas of the de facto frontier, as provided for in the Exchange of Notes between Her Majesty's Government and the Yemeni Government dated January 20, 1951.

