

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/3555
8 March 1956
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1956 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

At 2.30 a.m. on 4 March 1956, an Israel water-borne detachment, escorted by police boats and two small armoured craft, landed at several points on Syrian territory near the village of MASSADIEH.

When called upon to surrender, the Israelis fired on the armed Syrian villagers for about half an hour and then withdrew by swimming towards the boats under the pressure of return fire by the Syrian villagers. After this fusillade, the Israelis left behind:

(a) on Syrian territory:

- at approximate map reference $x = 208.7 - y = 255.3$, one police boat, on which two machine pistols and one Bren gun bearing Israel initials were found;
- one signalling pistol, one automatic weapon cover and one telephonic microphone;

(b) near the north shore of the lake and at a distance of 50 metres, another police boat aground.

At about 5.30 a.m., two small armoured craft and a police boat, covered by an Israel fighter, appeared off MASSADIEH. These vessels opened fire with their automatic weapons on the Syrian village and on our mounted patrol in order to cover the withdrawal of the grounded boat. An exchange of shots lasting about ten minutes then ensued.

Your attention should also be drawn to the fact that the Syrian patrol which came up towards MASSADIEH from the rear had no other purpose than to find out what was happening and put an end to the firing. But the Israel armed vessels, which had nothing to fear from this lightly-armed patrol, succeeded in bringing

it under heavy fire. This aggressive and completely unjustified attitude on the part of the Israelis was the cause of the clash which is the object of this complaint. Furthermore, it was in the same spirit that the Syrian authorities ordered through and in the presence of the United Nations observer the restitution of the Israel vessel which had been seized 400 metres inside Syrian waters.

The Syrian Delegation strongly protests against this premeditated armed aggression by Israel, contrary to article III, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Armistice Agreement and particularly the Security Council resolution of 19 January 1956.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated to the members of the Security Council and to the press.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Rafik Asha
Permanent Representative
of the Syrian Delegation to
the United Nations

