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LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1965 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In my letter of 22 March (S/6252) I drew Your Excellency's attention to recent violations of the territory of the Federation of South Arabia in the Beihan area which included attacks on a company of the Federal Regular Army holding a position at Nejd Obad in the vicinity of the Wadi Ablah. I have now been instructed by Her Majesty's Government to report to you the following further incidents which occurred in the same area on 1 and 2 April.

At approximately 1015 hours local time on 1 April, six MIG fighter aircraft flew over Federal territory. About one thousand yards east of Nejd Obad they attacked a three-ton lorry belonging to the Federal Regular Army with cannon and rockets. They also dropped napalm-type bombs in the Wadi Ablah. The same or other MIG fighter aircraft flew over the Federal Guard Post at Attibah and attacked the Guard Post at Jabal Harur with cannons and rockets.

At the same time as these air attacks four shells fell on the Federal Regular Army position at Nejd Obad which was also subjected to long-range small arms fire. The Federal Regular Army returned this fire and were also obliged to reply to further artillery attacks on their position at 1220 hours, 1500 hours and 2030 hours on 1 April.

At 0650 hours on 2 April, three shells were fired at a Belvedere helicopter on the ground near Nejd Obad and at 0830 hours on that day there was a further artillery attack on the Federal Army position there.

An Arab officer was seriously wounded during the air strike on the Federal Regular Army lorry on 1 April but, fortunately, no further casualties have been reported as a result of these several attacks.

It will be clear from the foregoing that the situation in the Beihan area of the Federation of South Arabia continues to give cause for serious concern, and that the hopes expressed in my letter of 22 March have, so far, not been realized.

I should also like to point out that, as may be seen from Sir Patrick Dean's letter of 4 March 1963 (S/5250) and from his letter of 18 September 1964 (S/5979), both addressed to the President of the Security Council, these attacks are the latest in a long series of attacks and infringements against Federation territory in this area.

I should be grateful if Your Excellency could arrange for this letter to be circulated as a Security Council document.

I avail myself, etc.

(Signed) (R.W. Jackling)
