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LETTER DATED 10 JUNE 1957 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to bring the following statement of the Government of Israel to the notice of the Security Council.

The Government of Israel has noted a series of complaints by Saudi Arabia submitted on 12 April 1957 (A/3575), 7 May 1957 (S/3825), 27 May 1957 (S/3833) and 5 June 1957 (S/3835), alleging that Israel naval vessels have violated Saudi Arabian territorial waters and have attacked Saudi coastal positions along the shore of the Gulf of Aqaba, and that Israel military aircraft have circled over Saudi Arabia positions.

The Government of Israel denies these allegations categorically. The incidents alleged have never taken place. Israel naval forces are under strict instructions not to violate the territorial waters of Saudi Arabia and not under any circumstances to attack other vessels or coastal positions. Similarly, all Israel aircraft are under strict orders to respect the air space of all other countries. Israel's policy, as repeatedly affirmed, is to contribute to the fullest extent to the maintenance of peace and tranquility in these international waters. The Government of Israel regrets particularly that the Government of Saudi Arabia should have seen fit to inject a religious issue by stating that the "location" of the "aggressive acts" which it alleges have occurred "engulf the traditional land and sea routes of Moslem pilgrimages" to Mecca. The Government of Israel, so far from interfering in any way with the traditional pilgrimage, has declared its desire to place all possible facilities at its disposal. A full statement to this effect was recently made by the Israel Minister for Foreign Affairs. Never on a single occasion has Israel prejudiced the Mecca pilgrimage in any way, nor has she any intention of doing so.

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It is the earnest hope of the Government of Israel that all littoral States of the Gulf of Aqaba will do everything in their power to ensure the continuance of the present peace and tranquility in the Gulf.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated to all members of the Security Council.

(Signed) ABBA EBAN
Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

