

DOCUMENT S/10638

Letter dated 11 May 1972 from the representative of China to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Chinese*]
[11 May 1972]

On 8 May 1972, the Permanent representative of the United States of America to the United Nations wrote to the President of the Security Council of the United Nations and requested that his letter and the enclosed announcement of 8 May by the President of the United States should be circulated as a Security Council document [see S/10631]. In this connexion, I am instructed by the Chinese Government to state the following.

The United States is the aggressor on the Viet-Nam question. The new measures in Viet-Nam as announced recently by the President of the United States, including the mining of the entrances to the ports of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, constitute a further expansion of the war of aggression against Viet-Nam and an open violation of freedom of international navigation. This is a grave provocation to the Viet-Nameese people as well as to the peoples of the world. These acts of aggression on the part of the United States are absolutely impermissible under international law and the United Nations Charter. The United States has no right whatsoever to invoke the

provisions of Article 51 of the United Nations Charter concerning the exercise of the right of self-defence.

It must also be pointed out that the Viet-Nam question has nothing to do with the United Nations in the first place. The United Nations has never meddled in the Viet-Nam question since the Geneva Conference was held in 1954.

The United States representative has by his letter to the Security Council attempted to impose on the United Nations such insolent measures as the flagrant blockade of the territorial sea and ports of Viet-Nam in violation of the Charter and the principles guiding international relations. That must be condemned.

In view of the above, the United States representative's request that his letter and the announcement by the President of the United States be circulated as a Security Council document is devoid of any legal basis. This is absolutely unacceptable to China.

I request that my letter be circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) HUANG Hua
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

* English text provided by the submitting delegation.

DOCUMENT S/10639*

Letter dated 11 May 1972 from the representative of Israel to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]
[11 May 1972]

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to a grave act of air piracy perpetrated by Arab terror agents who act with the support and encouragement of Arab Governments.

In the early hours of the evening of 8 May 1972, armed agents of the terror organization "Black September" captured a civilian aircraft of the Sabena Belgian World Airlines on its regular flight 517 from Brussels to Lod, Israel. Ninety passengers and 10 crew members were aboard the plane.

The hijackers brought the aircraft to a landing at Lod at 1915 hours local time. They then contacted the control tower of the airport and transmitted a demand to release members of Arab terror organizations detained in Israel. Among those whose release was demanded were confessed criminals responsible for such acts as the murder of innocent civilians at a bus station, in a supermarket and in a theatre. The hijackers threatened that, if their demands were rejected, the aircraft would be blown up with all its passengers and crew.

Contact with the hijackers continued to be maintained by the airport's tower throughout the night and on

the following day. On 9 May at 1630 hours, a unit of the Israel Defence Forces gained control of the aircraft and freed all the passengers and members of the crew. In the course of this action, two of the hijackers were killed and two others (women) captured.

While the hijackers were in control of the aircraft and the 100 persons aboard, including many women and children, remained in danger of being murdered in cold blood, voices of triumph and glee came from the Arab States.

Radio Cairo declared on the morning of 9 May: "Those who followed the hijacking of the plane could not conceal their tears of joy."

The Beirut daily *El-Yom* wrote on 9 May: "The hijacking operation is only one stage in the great historic confrontation between the Arabs and Zionism."

On the same day, the El-Fatah broadcast from Derra, Syrian Arab Republic: "All glory... to the *fedayeen* of Black September."

At the same time, Egypt's representative at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Santiago boastfully proclaimed in the plenary: "These are not terrorists... but Palestinian *fedayeen* who are

* Also circulated as a General Assembly document under the symbol A/8684.

trying to liberate their land and they shall liberate their land."

Thus Arab Governments and Arab media of information have once again, in a moment of bloodthirsty ecstasy, identified themselves with the most despicable crimes, directed against innocent and helpless civilians, condemned by the United Nations and proscribed by international law and international instruments.

When the 100 persons aboard the plane were finally saved, the Arab reaction, given wide publicity in Arab information media, was openly one of disappointment and of abuse against Israel for having acted to curb outlaws engaged in this crime of piracy.

I should like to emphasize again that the terror organizations responsible for such crimes have enjoyed the support of Arab Governments, in particular of Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria and Lebanon, which continue to harbour on their territory the bases from which these organizations operate, grant them

financial assistance, supply them with arms, give them military training and provide political backing. Thus the "Black September" group maintains its headquarters in Beirut and purchases its arms in Lebanon. Its members receive military training in the Syrian Arab Republic and Algeria. It enjoys the full support of Egypt.

The barbaric air piracy foiled by Israel reflects not only the criminality of the activities of Arab terror organizations, but also the involvement and responsibility of the Arab Governments, whose true attitude and designs were demonstrated anew in all their malice and disregard for international obligations. The international community cannot permit the continuation of such activities.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

DOCUMENT S/10640

Letter dated 11 May 1972 from the representative of Yugoslavia to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]
[11 May 1972]

Acting on instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the latest developments in Viet-Nam, with a request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Lazar MOJISOV
Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia
to the United Nations

TEXT OF THE STATEMENT

The Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, at its meeting on 10 May which was presided over by Premier Dzemal Bijedic, examined the situation that has arisen owing to the latest developments in Viet-Nam and issued the following statement:

"The Government and peoples of Yugoslavia most sharply condemn the decision of the United States Government to mine all the approaches to the ports of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and to bomb on a large scale this war-afflicted country.

"These aggressive actions mean the expansion of the war and destruction in this region and directly imperil peace and international security and may lead to a new world conflict.

"This development betrays the many hopes and expectations and invalidates some significant efforts that have lately been made towards relaxation and international understanding. The Government of the

United States is thus assuming an enormous responsibility.

"Independent, non-aligned socialist Yugoslavia again expresses its full support for the Viet-Nameese people and its heroic struggle for freedom and independence, aware that it is an indivisible part of the struggle and endeavours of all the peace-loving forces to achieve peace in the world based on the right of every people to be free and to decide about its fate. Knowing from its own experience, Yugoslavia is firmly convinced that no military force can defeat a people resolved to endure in the struggle for freedom and independence and that no one has the right to decide about the fate of a people in its stead.

"Therefore, the only road to solve this problem is the complete and undelayed withdrawal of American troops and military effectives from all Indo-China.

"The present dramatic moment is yet another lesson that peace cannot rest on force and that the continuance of the crisis and war conflicts inevitably lead towards their escalation, with all the perils for the over-all international relations.

"Yugoslavia, together with other non-aligned and peace-loving countries, will make every effort and uphold every step which can contribute to the creation of conditions for the renewal of the negotiations to find a solution to the Viet-Nameese problem, that is to say, to ensure the independence of the Viet-Nameese people, its freedom, and peace in that part of the world."