

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/10796
17 September 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 SEPTEMBER 1972 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions of my Government I have the honour to inform you of the following measures taken by Israel yesterday, 16 September 1972, against bases of murder organizations which have been pursuing a campaign of bloodshed and atrocities from Lebanese territory.

The Israel Defence Forces struck yesterday against bases and concentrations of these organizations at Nabatiyeh Al-Tahta, Rmaich, Ain Ebel, Bint-Jbail, Aynata, Tairi, Beit-Yahun, Adaysah, Braachite, Kafra, Jmaijme, Majdal-Selm Qabrikha, Touline and in the triangle Dir el-Ashaer - Yanta - Kafr Qauq.

According to reports as of 2200 hours local time last night, 130 structures serving as bases and hideouts of the terror groups had been demolished and 40 members of the murder squads killed. The structures were destroyed only after confirmation had been obtained on the spot that they were in fact being used by the murder organizations. Large quantities of arms and documents were seized.

The action confirmed the information in Israel's possession regarding the existence and precise location of the terror bases. The fact that the targets of the Israeli action were indeed hideouts and centres of murder squads has been corroborated by the communiques issued throughout the day by the terror organizations themselves. These communiques, broadcast from Syria and Egypt, reported repeatedly and at great length on Israel's action as being directed against bases of the terror groups and against members of the murder units.

The Israeli forces acted at all times in accordance with strict instructions to do all in their power to avoid hurting civilians. Whenever it was known that there were no terror bases inside a particular village or adjacent to it, the Israel forces bypassed it completely. However, it is to be recalled that the terror organizations themselves have admitted in the past and in their announcements yesterday that they had purposely established their bases in inhabited localities.

It is to be observed that, contrary to certain unfounded allegations no napalm was used at any time.

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The action undertaken by the Israel forces is part of Israel's constant defence effort against the murder organizations operating from Lebanese territory, while the Lebanese Government shirks its international obligations and its responsibilities towards its own citizens by harbouring on its territory and in the midst of its population murder squads guilty of barbaric atrocities and wanton slaughter of innocent civilians.

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

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
