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LETTER DATED 27 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 refer to the letter addressed to you on 21 September 1972 (S/10799) by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon regarding Israel's action on 16 September against bases of terror organizations situated on Lebanese territory.

In my letter of 17 September 1972 (S/10796), I informed you that the aforesaid action was part of Israel's continuing defence effort against the barbaric campaign of atrocities, wanton slaughter and air piracy waged by Arab murder squads from bases in Lebanon.

The Lebanese letter is the usual concoction of cynical denials of established facts, of distortions and false accusations by which the Lebanese Government has always tried to cover up its grave responsibility for permitting the use of its territory as a centre for planning, organizing and launching murderous attacks on innocent civilians in Israel and other countries.

Lebanon, together with several other Arab States, is today one of the principal exporters of international terrorism and such outrages against humanity as the detonation of civil aircraft in flight and the Lod and Munich massacres. In these circumstances, to refer to Lebanon, as its representative does, as "one of the peaceful and faithful Members of the United Nations" is the height of insolence. As long as the Lebanese Government does not fulfil its elementary international obligations and does not put an end to the gory killings initiated and perpetrated from its territory it will remain branded as an accomplice in these crimes.

The Lebanese letter does not contain a single word of regret at the loss of innocent lives in atrocities launched from Lebanese soil. The Lebanese Government has never expressed regret that its territory serves as a base for the heinous crimes of indiscriminate murder carried out by Arab terror organizations. On the contrary, the Lebanese Government has repeatedly proclaimed its full support for and co-operation with the terrorist organizations. Lebanese leaders are continuing to reiterate this attitude despite the world-wide condemnation of international terrorism.

The establishment and operation in Lebanon of terrorist headquarters, centres and bases was officially sanctioned in the agreement concluded on 3 November 1969

in Cairo between the Government of Lebanon and the terror organizations headed by the notorious Yassir Arafat. This accord and supplementary arrangements granting terror organizations freedom of movement and activity in Lebanon remain in force till today. It is ominous that a new agreement of co-operation between the Lebanese Government and the murder organizations has been reached in recent days.

Sanctimonious protestations of innocence and propaganda fabrications such as those in the Lebanese letter of 21 September 1972 cannot blur these grim facts or attenuate the Lebanese Government's grave responsibility.

Israel's action on 16 September was directed against the bases of the terror organizations. These were the targets actually hit. This has been confirmed by the terrorist organizations themselves in communiqués issued by them during and after the action, broadcast by Syrian and Egyptian radio and disseminated by the news agency of the terrorist organizations. This has been further confirmed by reports of Agence France Presse, Associated Press, Reuter and other international news agencies.

The Lebanese representative's allegation that the "refugee camp in Nabatiyeh was deliberately bombed" is one of many examples of the well-known Lebanese policy of giving protection to the terrorist bases not only by allowing their establishment in or adjacent to civilian localities but by hushing up their true nature. The terrorist organizations, however, have no inhibitions on this matter. They have announced that Israel's forces struck at the terrorist centre in Nabatiyeh resulting in the destruction of the headquarters and the death of a large number of members of the murder squads.

It is to be observed that the total losses announced by the murder organizations and reported by their news agency in Damascus were 40 terrorists killed, 40 wounded and 12 missing. To the extent that there were also casualties among civilians, which are to be regretted, the responsibility must be borne by the Lebanese authorities which continue to support and shelter the terrorist organizations thus compelling Israel to strike back at them in the exercise of legitimate self-defence.

As already indicated in my letter of 17 September the Israel forces acted under strict instructions to do all in their power to avoid civilian casualties. Thus the structures destroyed were those used as centres and hideouts by the murder squads and their demolition took place only after confirmation of such use had been obtained on the spot. The two bridges on the Litani river destroyed in the action served for direct access from the so-called Fatahland and other areas to the terrorist headquarters in Nabatiyeh. Eyewitness reports by representatives of international media of information belie the malicious allegation in the Lebanese letter that there was looting.

Another false charge that napalm had been used is utterly baseless and was already categorically repudiated in my letter of 17 September.

The entire civilized world is still awaiting effective action by the Lebanese Government to stamp out the savage campaign of atrocities and murders carried on

from its territory against innocent civilians in Israel and in other countries. There can be no acquiescence in the continuation of these dastardly activities and the Lebanese Government must bear full responsibility for continuing to refuse to halt them.

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

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

