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LETTER DATED 7 JULY 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, on instructions from the Government of Israel, to draw the urgent attention of the Security Council to a series of recent armed attacks by Syrian Forces upon Israel citizens and civilian activities in the vicinity of the Israel-Syrian border. These attacks constitute the most flagrant violation of the Israel-Syria General Armistice Agreement. The deteriorating border situation is a serious threat to international peace and security.

Particulars of these aggressive acts are as follows (the times given being local time):

On 2 July 1964, at 1155 hours, machine-gun fire was suddenly opened without any warning, from two fortified Syrian military positions near the border at the village of Darbashiya, on an Israel border police command car, carrying out a routine patrol in Israel territory, east of the village of Notera, and north of the Central Demilitarized Zone. Eight minutes thereafter, fire was opened from Syrian fortified positions in Tel Hillal, directed at an agricultural combine working in a field in that area, and in the direction of Ashmora. Other Syrian fortified positions at Jalabina immediately joined in the shooting, which then spread to all the Syrian positions along the whole stretch of the border from Darbashiya to Jalabina. Fire was eventually returned from the Israel side for the purpose of extricating wounded persons. United Nations Military Observers made five attempts to fix a cease-fire time but on each occasion the cease-fire arrangement was violated by resumption of fire from the Syrian positions. The Syrian firing died down only at 1715 hours.

The Syrian shooting caused three Israel casualties - the driver of the combine (still in a critical condition), a watchman, and one of the settlers, wounded while helping to extinguish the flames.

By the use of incendiary bullets, the Syrians set fire to the crops in the fields, and these fires were only brought under control late that evening, after causing extensive damage.

Prior to the Syrian firing, the border patrol car was proceeding along its habitual route, well within Israel territory, and the agricultural combine was carrying out a routine operation within an Israel field which has been under regular cultivation for years.

During succeeding days, there were a series of fresh Syrian attacks on Israel civilian activities in the border area.

On 3 July, at 1200 hours, there was a burst of fire from the Syrian position at Dardara, in the direction of Ashmora. The fire was renewed at 1400 hours and continued intermittently during the afternoon.

On 4 July, firing took place from 2230 hours to 2335 hours from Jalabina and Tel Hillal at Ashmora.

On 5 July, at 1020 hours, a burst of incendiary bullets was fired from Khirbet ed-Dikka at the fields of Almagor, setting them on fire. At 1730 hours, there were three bursts of fire from Tel Hillal, at vehicles in Israel territory. From 2035 hours to 2215 hours, intermittent automatic fire was directed from Jalabina and Tel Hillal, at Ashmora.

On 6 July, at 1755 hours, heavy automatic fire was opened from the Syrian positions near Ein Tinna and Tel Hillal, directed at a half-track border police vehicle moving along its regular patrol route well within Israel territory, to the north of Ashmora. Under covering fire, the vehicle reached cover in Ashmora, but harrassing fire was maintained. When the vehicle emerged from the village at 1825 hours, heavy fire was once more directed at it and the firing immediately spread along the eight-kilometre stretch from Dureijat, northwards to Al'Ureifiya. The Syrian forces brought into action tanks and 82mm Soviet-type recoilless guns. One Israeli was wounded. A shed at Ashmora was set on fire by a shell

from a recoilless gun, and the hay stored in it destroyed. The firing, which was heavier than that in the 2 July incident, was terminated at 2000 hours, in accordance with a cease-fire arrangement made by the United Nations Observers.

It should be stressed that:

(a) In none of the above incidents was the opening of fire from Syrian positions preceded by any activity of an unusual nature, in the Israel border areas involved. On the contrary, such activity as was taking place at the time, in those areas, was of an entirely normal, peaceful and civilian character. The Syrian attacks were utterly unprovoked and obviously premeditated. That is borne out by the circumstance that on 2 July and 6 July, the whole chain of Syrian fortified positions behind an eight-kilometre stretch of border had joined in the firing within a matter of minutes.

(b) The Syrians employed tanks, 82mm. recoilless guns, and heavy machine-guns of 14.7mm. calibre, all of which weapons were used in open violation of the provisions of the Armistice Agreement relating to the types of weapon which it is permissible to bring into the Defensive Area.

(c) No fire was returned from the Israel side of the border except on 2 July and 6 July, when it was unavoidable for purposes of rescue.

(d) During these attacks, there were six Israel casualties, and extensive material damage to property. There is every reason to assume that incendiary bullets were deliberately used in order to set on fire fields which are particularly dry and inflammable at this time of the year.

(e) The incidents on and after 2 July were preceded by a number of cases of Syrian shooting at Israel civilians, starting from 9 June, when a long period of relative calm on this border was broken. Attached hereto is a list of twenty-nine cases of shooting attacks from Syrian positions, at Israel citizens and civilian activities in the border area, in the four-week period 9 June to 6 July 1964. In each case, an Israel complaint was submitted to the Mixed Armistice Committee, and - except as stated

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above, concerning the events on 2 and 6 July - no fire was returned from the Israel side of the border.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated to the members of the Security Council, as a Council document.

(Signed) Michael COMAY  
Permanent Representative

APPENDIX

SUMMARY OF ISRAEL COMPLAINTS TO ISRAEL-SYRIAN MAC

Concerning firing from Syrian positions during the period 9 June-6 July 1964

1. 9 June 1964, 0600 hours  
Machine-gun bursts and rifle fire towards Mishmar Hayarden.
2. 9 June 1964, 1200 hours  
Two rifle shots from Tel Hillal towards Ashmora.
3. 9 June 1964, 2220 hours  
Two machine-gun bursts from Tel Hillal towards Ashmora.
4. 12 June 1964, 2045 hours  
Two machine-gun bursts from Tel Azazyat towards Sheer Yashuv.
5. 12 June 1964, 2105 hours  
Two machine-gun bursts from Tel Hamra towards Kibbutz Dan.
6. 16 June 1964, 1345 hours  
Two rifle shots from Tel Hillal towards Ashmora.
7. 17 June 1964, 1115 hours  
Two machine-gun bursts from Naamouh towards Kfar Szold.
8. 25 June 1964, 0745 hours  
Machine-gun fire from Tawafiq at tractor in the fields of Tel Katzir.
9. 24 June 1964, 0933 hours  
Three heavy machine-gun bursts from Tawafiq at tractor in fields of Tel Katzir.
10. 25 June 1964, 1005 hours  
Heavy machine-gun fire at tractor in fields of Tel Katzir.
11. 25 June 1964, 1745 hours  
Heavy machine-gun fire from Tawafiq at tractor in fields of Tel Katzir.

12. 25 June 1964, 1805 hours  
Heavy machine-gun fire from Tawafiq at tractor in fields of Tel Katzir.
13. 25 June 1964, 1814 hours  
Two machine-gun bursts from Tawafiq at tractor in fields of Tel Katzir.
14. 25 June 1964, 1817 hours  
Two machine-gun bursts from Tawafiq at tractor in fields of Tel Katzir.
15. 28 June 1964, 1640 hours  
Two machine-gun bursts from Tawafiq at tractor in fields of Tel Katzir.
16. 29 June 1964, 1250 hours  
Heavy machine-gun fire from Tawafiq at tractor in fields of Tel Katzir.
17. 30 June 1964, 1545 hours  
Three heavy machine-gun bursts from Tawafiq at tractor in fields of Tel Katzir.
18. 30 June 1964, 1622 hours  
Two heavy machine-gun bursts from Tawafiq at tractor in fields of Tel Katzir.
19. 2 July 1964, 0900 hours  
Two rifle shots from Darbashiya westwards over demarcation line.
20. 2 July 1964, from 1155 to 1715 hours  
Heavy machine-gun and rifle fire along border between Darbashiya and Dureijat.
21. 3 July 1964, 1150 hours  
Machine-gun fire from Jalabina towards Ashmora.
22. 3 July 1964, 1540 hours  
Two rifle shots from Darabashiya towards the road to Notera.
23. 3 July 1964, 1610 hours  
Heavy machine-gun fire from Jalabina and Tel Hillal towards Ashmora.
24. 3 July 1964, 2100 hours  
Two rifle shots from Tel Azaziyat toward Shear Yashuv.

25. 4 July 1964, from 2230 to 2335 hours

Periodic fire from Jalabina and Tel Hillal towards Ashmora.

26. 5 July 1964, 1020 hours

A burst of incendiary bullets from Kh. ed-Dikka towards the fields of Almagor, setting the fields afire.

27. 5 July 1964, 1730 hours

Three bursts from Tel Hillal at Israeli vehicles.

28. 5 July 1964, 2035 to 2215 hours

Periodical automatic fire from Jalabina and Tel Hillal towards Ashmora.

29. 6 July 1964, from 1755 to 2000 hours

Heavy automatic and recoilless artillery fire along eight-kilometre front from Dureijat to Al'Ureifiya.

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