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LETTER DATED 31 AUGUST 1964 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL

I have been instructed by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, acting on behalf of the Government of the Federation of South Arabia, to bring to the attention of Your Excellency the fact that on the night of 23/24 August artillery in Republican controlled territory in the Baidha area of the Yemen fired four shells which exploded near Mukairas airfield, in the territory of the Federation of South Arabia. On behalf of the Government of South Arabia, Her Majesty's Government are protesting most strongly to the Yemeni Republican Authorities at this firing into Federal territory for which they are requesting an apology. They have also reserved the Federation's right to take any necessary defensive measures in the event of any repeated attack of this kind. Should such incidents recur, the Federal Government and Her Majesty's Government would have to hold the Yemeni Republican Authorities accountable for any consequences. Finally, they have to record their regret that activities by the Yemeni Republican Authorities since 9 April have been inconsistent with the reduction of tension in the area for which the Security Council called on that date.

Her Majesty's Government have observed that the Yemeni Republican Authorities in their letter dated 27 August (S/5919) have alleged to the President of the Security Council that British Forces have fired on Yemeni territory in the Baidha area on 18 August, 19 August and 24 August. These complaints are untrue. Forces on the Federal side of the border in the Baidha area (which are in any case units of the Federations forces, not British forces) have not fired into Yemeni territory. It is common knowledge in the Federation of South Arabia that there has been firing in the Baidha area between the Republican Authorities and anti-Republican elements in the Yemen. Her Majesty's Government assume that it is

this fighting among Yemenis within the Yemen to which this complaint really refers.

Her Majesty's Government feel bound in this general connexion to add that the activities of the Authorities in Yemeni Republican controlled territory have since 9 April been consistently at variance with the reduction of tension in the area for which the Security Council called on that date. It is a matter of regret to Her Majesty's Government that the Yemeni Republican Authorities have not only failed to respond to the constructive measures for the reduction of tension which Her Majesty's Government have proposed through the good offices of the Secretary-General, but have continued to promote violence and tension in the area.

May I request Your Excellency to have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

I avail myself of this opportunity etc.

(Signed) R.W. JACKLING  
Acting Permanent Representative

