

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/5093  
19 March 1962

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1962 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 direct the attention of the Security Council to the following facts.

1. During the period from 1 February to 16 March 1962, Syrian Armed Forces committed the following acts of aggression against Israel:

- 1 February - machine-gun fire on Dardara.
- 7 February - rifle fire on Dardara.
- 10 February - rifle and machine-gun fire on civilians south of Mishmar Hayarden.
- 15 February - machine-gun fire on vehicular traffic on the road to Ein Gev.
- 25 February - machine-gun fire on fishermen near the Syrian village of El Kursi.
- 27 February - machine-gun fire on Police south of Dardara.
- 7 March - machine-gun fire on Dardara.
- 8 March - machine-gun and recoilless gun fire on Police patrol boat. The boat was damaged and members of its crew were seriously injured.
- 15 March - further similar attacks on Police patrol boats.
- 16 March - repetition of this type of attack.

The last-mentioned attacks were carried out from Syrian Army positions forming part of a system of fortifications extending illegally into the demilitarized zone north of the village of El Nukeib. The weapons employed included 82 mm. recoilless guns which Syria is not permitted under the Armistice Agreement to deploy in the vicinity of the eastern shore of Lake Tiberias.

All the aforesaid aggressive acts constitute flagrant violations of the United Nations Charter and the Armistice Agreement.

2. Since Syria resumed an independent status at the end of September 1961, representatives of that country have repeatedly proclaimed that Syria regards itself as being in a state of war with Israel, and have asserted their hostile and aggressive intentions against the territorial integrity and political independence of Israel. The following are excerpts from a long list of such declarations:

On 14 December 1961 the President of Syria, Nazem el Kudsi, in his inaugural address to the Syrian Parliament, stated:

"We must develop our economy so as to bring to fruition our great aims: the liberation of Palestine and support for the struggle in Algeria and other liberation movements in the Arab world. For this purpose we must strengthen our armed forces and provide them with adequate arms and equipment."

On 8 January 1962, the Prime Minister of Syria, Maarouf el Dawalibi, announcing in Parliament the policy of his new Government, spoke openly of the necessity of liquidating the State of Israel.

On 13 January 1962, at the passing-out parade of a Naval Officers' course, the Commander of the Syrian Army, General Zahreldin, said:

"The Arabs and their enemy Israel have a common naval front on the Mediterranean. This naval front is the only lung through which the Zionist monster, closed in on its three other sides by strong Arab walls, can breathe. In order to strangle Israel and to liquidate it the Arabs must sever this lifeline by a strong Arab naval striking force."

It is noted in connexion with the above-mentioned declarations by Syrian representatives that in 1951 the Security Council ruled that a state of war was inconsistent with the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

3. The Israel Government has drawn the attention of competent United Nations authorities on a number of occasions to the incidents listed above, and to the deteriorating situation which they were causing. Following the shelling of the Police boat on 8 March, it was suggested to the Chief-of-Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) that United Nations Observation Posts be established along the northeastern shore of Lake Tiberias, from which the attacks on Police and fishermen had been directed. At the same time the Chief-of-Staff

was requested to convey to the Syrian authorities the Government of Israel's concern about the possible consequences of such attacks, and the Israel Government was informed that this had been done. These representations remained without positive response. On 15 and 16 March, Syrian armed forces continued their attacks against the Israel patrol boat on Lake Tiberias in circumstances indicating a systematic and deliberate challenge to Israel's presence on the Lake.

4. Faced with this series of acts of provocation, and in discharge of its responsibilities for the protection of the life and property of Israel citizens and the territorial integrity of the State, the Government of Israel found itself under the necessity, in exercise of its inherent right of self-defence, to take action, the object of which was to silence key positions in the Syrian fortified system overlooking Lake Tiberias. Such action was taken on the night of 16-17 March 1962 against one of these positions.

5. The Government of Israel wishes to reiterate its declared policy of adherence to the principles and obligations of the Charter and the Armistice Agreement, but at the same time must insist that Syria should similarly abide by its obligations.

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

(Signed) Michael COMAY  
Permanent Representative

-----

