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LETTER DATED 1 JUNE 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to my letter No. 956 of 29 May 1958, I have the honour to submit herewith a memorandum outlining the events caused in Tunisian territory since 18 May 1958 by French troops stationed in Tunisia and French forces operating in Algeria.

I should be grateful if you would kindly issue this document as a Security Council document and circulate it in the manner in which Council documents are normally circulated.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed)

Mongi Slim
Ambassador of Tunisia
Permanent Representative of Tunisia
to the United Nations

MEMORANDUM

ON EVENTS IN TUNISIA SINCE 18 MAY 1958

- 18 MAY A French military unit composed of some thirty armoured vehicles with machine guns and canon left the post at Remada and attempted to occupy positions at Bir Amir and Oued Dekouk which were held by Tunisian forces. The French forces in a surprise attack captured six Tunisian soldiers who were taken to Remada and released later upon intervention.
- 19 MAY The French troops retreated from Bir Amir towards Remada, but a large concentration of French troops remained at Oued Dekouk.
- 20 MAY The French forces maintained their positions at Oued Dekouk. Other units established themselves at Fatnassia, fifteen kilometres north-east of Remada, where Tunisian forces were also stationed. French military aircraft flew over the area. The landing of four jet aircraft at Gafsa was reported at 19.00 hours. A new column of French military vehicles left Remada, moving north in the direction of Oued Dekouk.
- 22 MAY Remada: French forces in the Remada sector continued their movement, occupying crossroads and elevations at the junction of the roads connecting Bordj-El-Boeuf with Remada and Fom Tatahouine.
- Gafsa: Exchanges of machine gun and mortar fire between the Tunisian army and French troops occupying the airfield and the military buildings at the entrance to the city of Gafsa. These incidents were caused by the landing of four "Mistral" aircraft at Gafsa, despite Tunisian prohibition to land, for the purpose of supporting the action of the French troops at Remada. Shots were exchanged as these aircraft took off. At 17.25 hours, Tunisian forces fired on a French reconnaissance aircraft flying over their installations. French troops from their position opened fire on the Tunisian forces, which returned it.
- 24 MAY At 18.30 hours, French troops from the Remada sector attempted to take by force a Tunisian army outpost at Kannebout south-west of Remada along the road to Bordj-Le-Boeuf; the French soldiers opened fire on the Tunisian forces holding the position; the latter returned it with a view to supporting their units fighting at Kannebout. At 19.00 hours, other French troops fired on our posts on the outskirts of Remada; the Tunisian forces returned their fire, and the skirmish lasted until 06.00 hours the following day. /...

25 MAY At 07.00 hours the French Air Force began an aerial attack on the Remada area. Successive waves of B.26 bombers and "Corsair" fighters pounded and machine-gunned an area several kilometres in width extending forty kilometres to the north of Remada, their targets being the Tunisian positions of Bir Amir and Oued Dekouk. A public works yard and two ambulances were hit.

Results: 6 shops destroyed, the Remada school, the office of the Government representative and the national guard post looted and damaged, 8 civilians killed, 1 body found charred beyond recognition, the school principal, his wife and four children murdered, an alfalfa storage depot burned and huts destroyed, 11 persons missing, including the teacher.

29 MAY LARGE CONCENTRATIONS of French motorized forces at various places north-west of Remada. A French formation, after advancing about 20 kilometres along the road from Remada to Tatahouine, came into contact with one of our positions at Hachem, 10 kilometres south of Oued Dekouk, (i.e. 30 kilometres from Remada). The formation attacked our forces with gun-fire and our forces returned the fire. The engagement continued intermittently from 10.00 to 15.30 hours.

