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LETTER DATED 18 JULY 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF YEMEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, to draw the attention of the Security Council to the new wave of British acts of aggression against Yemen which, on 8 July 1958, culminated in an unprovoked attack by the British Royal Air Force against life and property of the inhabitants of Harib within Yemen territory. On that day British Royal Air Force aircraft, both fighters and bombers, violated Yemen air space and bombed the Yemeni town of Harib. Consequently, Yemeni defense anti-aircraft guns fired on the aircraft and one was hit and crashed in Yemen territory. An hour later the British Royal Air Force once more violated Yemeni air space, flew over thirty miles inside the territory of Yemen and once again bombed the town of Harib using rockets and other destructive weapons. This attack caused much destruction in property and human suffering.

2. For months now there have been continued aggressive activities by the United Kingdom's forces in that area directed against Yemen, which has resulted in much loss of life and destruction of property. The most recent of these acts of aggression, in addition to the one mentioned above and to those stated in my last letter addressed to the Secretary-General on 2 May 1958 (document S/4001), are the following:

May 6 through May 8, 1958 marked three days of bombing, ground and artillery attacks against the small southeast Yemen town of Qataba in the Vice-Royalty of Ibb. Qataba is well within the provisional boundary of Yemen. The bombing hit and completely destroyed al-Fat'h an-Nasiriya South Yemen Tribal School. The capacity of the school is 600 students, and there were 400 boarding students in the school up to the date of the attack, 200 having left earlier out of

fear of eventual British occupation of the Qataba area. This same bombing caused the destruction of a customs house near the school, and many other neighbouring houses. Twenty soldiers were killed and approximately sixty were wounded in their quarters in the Customs Khan barracks while they were asleep after all night duty on the front lines. The barracks were unfortified and undefended except by individual rifle fire of surviving soldiers. Four pictures showing the damage caused by these attacks are enclosed herewith. The said bombing caused a number of deaths and casualties and illness from exposure and shock, particularly among women and children. Many students were exposed to shock with a least two thought to be permanently affected mentally.

3. The letter of Sir Pierson Dixon, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, sent to the Secretary-General on 9 July 1958 (document S/4044) regarding the latest attack of 8 July 1958, is itself a clear expression of contradictory statements attempting to cover up British planned aggression. While the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom claims, in the said letter, that certain places in the Aden Protectorate "were fired on across the frontier from Yemen by heavy machine guns located near the town of Harib", he did not explain why British aircraft had to violate Yemeni air space and fly over thirty miles beyond the place of shooting. The United Kingdom failed to show a justifiable reason for sending aircraft to Harib which is over twenty-two miles away from what Britain calls the "de facto frontier" and 100 miles from Sana'a, the capital of Yemen.

Britain cannot claim that the firing across the border came from Harib, because the British Permanent Representative will certainly find by checking the British Directorate of Colonial Surveys Map, Second Edition, 1956, which is herewith attached, that Harib is at least twenty-two miles away from the so-called "de facto frontier" and, this being the case, neither Yemen, nor any other country, has so far been able to acquire machine guns which fire across the border from a distance of twenty-two miles.

4. This latest armed attack, of 8 July 1958, for which there would be, and there could be, no justification if Britain was more respectful to the sovereignty of Member States, and to her obligations under the United Nations Charter, was provoked by Britain in an effort to achieve her objectives by intimidation and violence.

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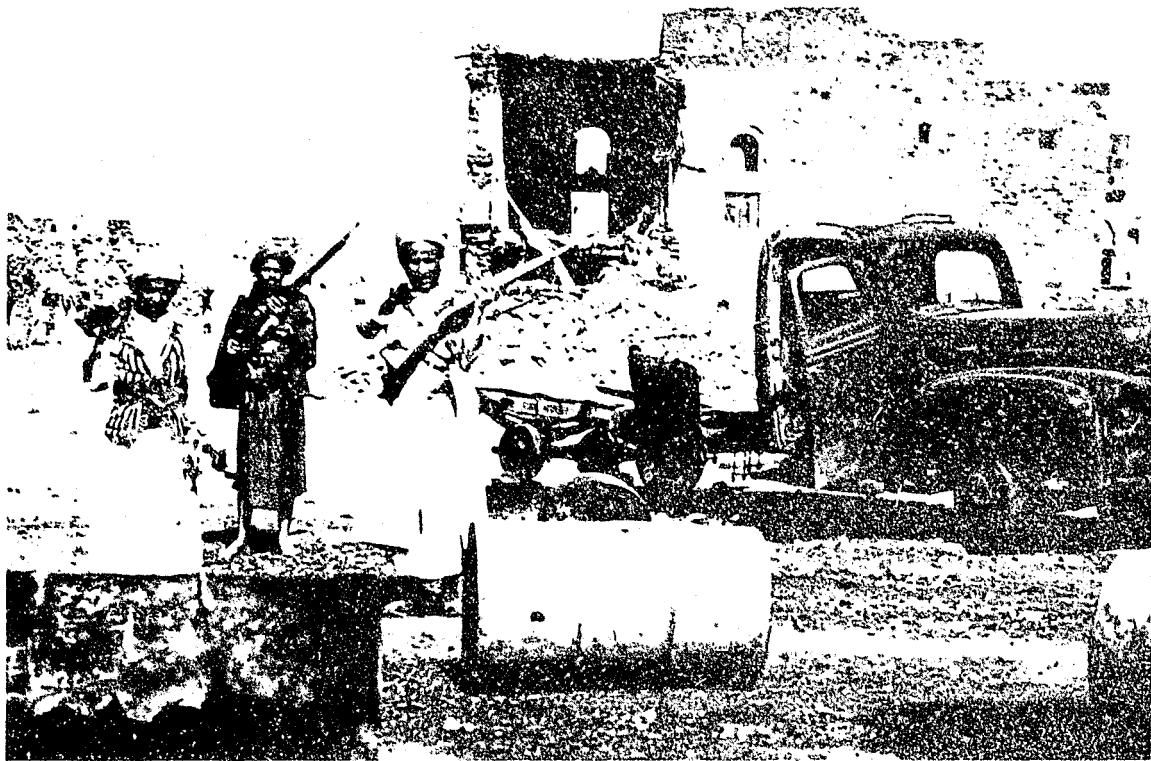
I shall be very grateful if Your Excellency would make the necessary arrangements to ensure that these facts are communicated to all Members of the United Nations as a matter of urgency.

I avail myself etc.

(Signed)

Kamil A. RAHIM
Permanent Representative
of Yemen
to the United Nations

Burned-out petrol drums and truck, which caused large fire in Customs Khan during bombing. RAF bomber personnel alleged that ammunition stores had been blown up.



Courtyard view of South Yemen's al Fat'h an-Nasiriya School, showing thin roof construction incapable of being used for gun emplacements.

