

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/8912
2 December 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 DECEMBER 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to my letters to you of 17 September, 23 October and 3 November (S/8818, S/8865, S/8884) in which I drew attention to continued Jordanian violations of the cease-fire.

Acts of aggression from Jordanian territory have continued unabated during recent weeks. They have increased in particular since the conclusion on 16 November 1968 of a pact between the Government of Jordan and terror warfare organizations operating against Israel from Jordan.

This pact defines the spheres in which the terrorist organizations are free to operate and the character and means of support extended to them by the Jordanian authorities. By thus granting official sponsorship and protection to these organizations, the Jordan Government has assumed direct responsibility for all acts of terror directed and carried out from bases in its territory. This responsibility applies to all terror actions irrespective of their nature: attacks from across the cease-fire line by opening fire on Israeli forces or on Israeli civilians resident in the vicinity of the line or working along it; and indiscriminate terror raids against civilians, men, women, children and the elderly inside Israel.

The pact illustrated further the degree of credence that can be attributed to official Jordanian pronouncements such as the statement by the Permanent Representative of Jordan in the Security Council on 12 August 1968 in which he denied the existence in Jordan of training camps and recruitment centres for the terrorist organizations or knowledge of any co-ordination between these organizations and the Government of Jordan and other Arab Governments.

Since the conclusion of the agreement with the terrorist organizations, fifty Jordanian attacks have occurred including the shelling of Israeli villages and towns from across the cease-fire line, sabotage raids and acts of violence against the civilian population.

A particularly grave act of aggression was perpetrated on 22 November. On that day a vehicle containing a large quantity of explosives was brought to the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem and detonated at 0930 hours. It was a Friday and the market was crowded, mainly with women engaged in their Sabbath shopping. The hour was close to the morning class intermission in a nearby school. The explosion resulted in twelve killed, among whom were two Arab shoppers. Fifty-three were wounded, seventeen of them seriously, including two Arabs, a father and child. Extensive damage was caused to shops, residences, market stalls and vehicles parked in the area.

On the same day two terror organizations announced their responsibility for the attack. These organizations were Al-Assifa, the military arm of El-Fatah, and a group which calls itself "The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine". These announcements were broadcast over Arab radio stations and by the BBC, London, at 0600 hours. Both these organizations maintain bases in Jordan territory and are among the groups with which the Jordan Government signed the above-mentioned pact.

On the night of 29-30 November, the Dead Sea Potash Works at Sodom were shelled from Jordanian territory by 130 mm rockets. At least fifteen of them fell on the site.

On the night of 1-2 December, a concerted attack was carried out against the Israeli villages of Yardenia and Degania Alef. These villages were shelled from Jordanian territory, compelling the Israeli forces to return fire in self-defence and to employ aircraft in order to silence the Jordanian sources of fire.

Jordanian aggression thus having reached most threatening proportions, an Israeli commando unit last night blew up two Jordanian bridges approximately 60 kms east of the Sodom Potash Works shelled on the previous night. The action was taken in pursuance of Israel's right of self-defence, in an attempt to ward off the persistent acts of aggression and to impress upon the Jordanian authorities the dangers inherent in violations of the cease-fire by regular or irregular forces.

The continuous warlike acts against Israel from Jordan, carried out with Jordanian governmental support, makes mockery of Jordan's acceptance of the cease-fire. By the pact with the terror organizations, the Government of Jordan has publicly assumed full responsibility, practical, moral and juridical, for acts of terrorism directed and perpetrated from bases situated in Jordanian territory.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOA
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
