

MAR 26 1970

Dear Dr. Ghorbal,

I appreciate your forthright letter following your return from Cairo. I have delayed responding until our decision on the main issue which concerned you was ready for announcement. I hope you will find in it constructive elements responsive to the points you raised.

Personal regards,

(Typed) HENRY A. KISSINGER

Henry A. Kissinger

Henry for

Dr. Ashraf Abdel Latif Ghorbal
Minister Plenipotentiary
United Arab Republic Interests Section
Embassy of India
2310 Decatur Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

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EMBASSY OF INDIA

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC INTERESTS SECTION
2310 DECATUR PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

Personal

23 February 1970

The Honorable
Henry A. Kissinger
National Security Council
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Kissinger:

While I was in Cairo I read the text of President Nixon's remarks in his Press Conference on 30 January 1970. I believe he said "we will consider the Israeli arms request based on the threats to them from states in the area and we will honor those requests to the extent that we see that we determine that they need additional arms in order to meet that threat. That decision will be made within the next 30 days." While it could be said that the President's words do not by necessity mean that he would ultimately decide to sell Israel more Phantoms or Skyhawks, the context in which he made his above mentioned announcement was most discouraging.

First of all, these remarks came as a follow up to the President's message to the "National Emergency Conference for Peace in the Middle East" on 26 January 1970. That message was far from being encouraging to the Arabs in their efforts to live in peace and regain their territories.

Secondly, President Nixon spoke about "threats to Israel from states in the area." In full respect, I submit that the facts as they exist prove that it is the Arab states that are threatened by the Israelis. Not visa versa. Arab territories are still occupied by Israeli military forces, Arab cities are being devastated, not only those close to the cease-fire line but those further away as well through daily raids. Arab civilians have been subjected to bombardment with napalm without mercy or shame.

This is the picture in Jordan, Syria, in my country, and even in Lebanon. I believe all the above are facts that I do not need to dwell upon any further. In these inhuman attacks Israel has used Skyhawks and Phantoms that were contracted for with the previous American administration.

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I am taking the liberty of enclosing a pamphlet I just received from home, showing pictures of the result of the latest Israeli attack on the National Metal Products Factory at Abu Zaabal in Cairo on 12 February 1970 where Phantoms were used to kill 70 civilians and injure 69 more from napalm and time bombs. The latest reports put the death toll at 80.

I personally think it is my duty to send you these pictures for your knowledge and with the hope that you will see fit to bring them to the attention of President Nixon in order that the decision he is about to make would be based on full "connaissance de cause."

The developments since June 1967 prove that what Israel needs is not additional arms but reason. Instead of violence and expansion, the Israelis should be influenced to follow a policy of peace, withdrawal and respect of the rights of others. They need the help of the United States along this kind of a road, not along the road they have been following of destruction and terror.

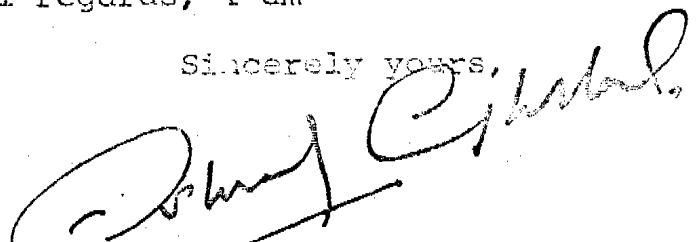
Needless for me to assure you that my country on its part wishes no more than to live in peace, to save its people and other people in the area from the scourge of war and violence. To that end, the United Arab Republic stands by its commitment to accept Resolution 242 of the Security Council and continues to be ready to work out with Ambassador Jarring the timetable and mechanism for its implementation.

My country like any other seeks peace not through resignation to the dictate of our enemies who occupy our lands. Like all other peoples who have faced similar aggression and occupation, the UAR will exercise its inherent right of self defense and liberation of its homeland. Nevertheless the United Arab Republic remains dedicated to seek, through the putting into force of the above mentioned Resolution, a peaceful outcome of the present powder keg.

May I take this opportunity to convey to you the greetings of Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi and Mr. Mohamed Riad with whom I have had occasion for long talks while I was in Cairo and in which we all recalled our meetings with you when Dr. Fawzi was here in April and May of 1969.

With my warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



ISRAELI AIR ATTACK
ON THE
NATIONAL METAL PRODUCTS FACTORY
AT ABU ZAABAL, CAIRO
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1970

