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SECURITY COUNCIL  
Twenty-eighth year

Letter dated 7 October 1973 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Israel to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following:

Yesterday, 6 October 1973, between 1156 and 1200 hours GMT, Egypt and Syria launched a sudden unprovoked attack against Israel across the cease-fire lines. The fact of this aggression has been fully confirmed by United Nations military observers in the two sectors concerned (S/7930/Add.2142).

When the Government of Israel became aware some hours previously that such an attack was imminent, it so informed a number of friendly Governments through their diplomatic representatives in Israel and by other means. It was made clear that Israel would not itself initiate military action and that the Governments of Egypt and Syria could be assured accordingly. The Government of Israel was advised that this message was indeed conveyed to Egypt and Syria.

At the same time the Foreign Minister of Israel apprised the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council of the situation.

This treacherous aggression was launched against Israel on the Day of Atonement when, by reason of the special sanctity of the day, the holiest in the Jewish calendar, the everyday routine of life in the country gives way to spiritual reflection and prayer throughout the nation. To the blasphemy and sacrilege involved in the choice of this particular day, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Syria have added the base and cynical falsehood which alleges that Israel, on the Day of Atonement, with all that this day means for Jews in Israel as elsewhere, began the fighting. The unconceivable mendacity of this allegation is fully exposed by the military facts and by the reports received from Major General Siilasvuo, the Chief of the United Nations military observers.

The Egyptian and Syrian attacks on 6 October are manifestations of the implacable policy of hostility and warfare pursued against Israel by these two States.

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Israel is now engaged in defending itself against this treacherous assault. It will spare no effort, in exercise of its right to self-defence, until the aggressors have been thrown back and the cease-fire structure agreed by the parties in 1967 and the 1970s restored. In doing so it relies on its own resolution and the valour of its men at arms. At the same time it is confident of the understanding and support of peace-loving men and women everywhere.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Abba EBAN  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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