LETTER DATED 1 APRIL 1969 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF IRAQ ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Acting upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter of the representative of Israel (document S/9094, A/7528) of 19 March 1969, regarding what he termed "entry and stationing of Iraqi armed forces in Syria", I have the honour to state the following:

1. The entry of Iraqi armed forces into Syria was taken upon the specific request of the Syrian Government, and in fulfillment of the Joint Defence Agreement between Iraq and Syria. The Iraqi troops have been stationed in the Syrian territory at a considerable distance from the cease-fire line.

2. It shall be recalled that a premeditated war of aggression was waged by Israel in June 1967, against three Arab States. Considerable parts of the territories of these Arab States, including Syria, have since been occupied by Israel. The leaders of Israel have never made secret their designs to perpetuate the occupation and to annex the occupied Arab territories, particularly those of Syria, which the Israelis now consider as part of the "natural borders of Israel". And when the Israeli plans of expansion envisage having the territory of Eretz Yisrael extend "from the Euphrates to the Nile", Syria and Iraq then have the supreme right and duty of joining efforts to prevent such an eventuality.

3. The presence of Iraqi armed forces in Syria, therefore, is a mutual measure in the exercise of the right of self-defence, which right has been enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and recognized by international law. Iraq, in fact, is nationally and legally obligated to come to the assistance of any Arab country member of the League of Arab States under the Arab Common Defence Pact when such a country is facing ruthless occupation and a threat of further aggression and expansion, regardless of the source of such a threat.

4. The Security Council is presently seized with the situation arising from the continued Israeli occupation of the territories of three Arab States, and has on several occasions in the past deplored the repeated acts of aggression committed...
by Israel against the neighbouring Arab States. The Israeli representative, who on various occasions, arrogantly admitted the Israeli breaches of the cease-fire resolutions, is undoubtedly attempting with his letter under reference to justify and prepare for future acts of aggression by Israel against the neighbouring Arab States.

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

I avail myself of this opportunity etc.

(Signed) Adnan RAOUF
Acting Permanent Representative of Iraq
to the United Nations