

(B6.)

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Statement by the Prime Minister:

The draft resolution submitted to the Security Council by three Great Powers - the United States, Britain and France - contains the following:

■ The Security Council

- (a) Finds that the Qibya retaliatory action taken by Israel's armed forces on 14th October, 1953 and all such actions constitute a violation of the ceasefire provisions of the Security Council Resolutions of 15th July 1948 and are inconsistent with the parties' obligations under the Armistice agreement and the Charter of the U.N.

Expresses strongest censure of that action which can only prejudice the chances of a peaceful settlement which both parties in accordance with the Charter are bound to seek and calls upon Israel to take effective measures to prevent all such actions in future.

- (b) Takes note of the fact that there is substantial evidence of the crossings of demarcation lines by unauthorized persons, often resulting in acts of violence, and requests the Government of Jordan to continue and strengthen the measures which it is already taking to prevent such crossings

The Government of Israel finds it necessary to state the following:

1. The Government of Israel ^{must} question the veracity of the report submitted to General Bennike on the Qibya affair, on which the three Powers base their imputation of responsibility to the "armed forces of Israel".

2. The draft resolution of the Powers makes a clear discrimination between the blood of one people and that of another. While censuring Israel for the Qibya affair, the Powers, by their silence, condone in effect all the murders committed by armed forces hailing from the Kingdom of Jordan, including those perpetrated by members of the Arab Legion, both before the Qibya incident and since, till the present day. This glossing over clearly implies that the Powers do not consider that these murders of citizens of Israel by armed men from Jordan constitute a violation of the armistice, are inconsistent with the Charter, or prejudice the chances of peace.

3. Even without this being its express purpose, the draft resolution of the three Powers cannot but encourage further murderous attacks by armed bands from Jordan, or by members of the Legion. None knows better than the British Government, which provides the funds for the upkeep of the Arab Legion and whose ~~own~~ officers are in command of it, that the Legion and the Jordan Government have not taken effective measures to prevent aggression in the shape of acts of robbery and murder which have continued for more than four years, causing death and injury to hundreds of Israel inhabitants, men and women, old and young. If Britain claims the right to plead the cause she cannot divest herself of the responsibility.

4. The Government of Israel notes with amazement and deep regret that the draft resolution neglects the central purpose of the U.N. Charter and the primary objective of the Armistice Agreements, which is the establishment of peace, by failing to call upon the parties concerned to enter into direct negotiations for the achievement of a final settlement. The Government of Israel cannot but interpret this omission as a grievous and disturbing example of appeasement of the Government of Jordan and of the other members of the Arab League, who ~~xxxxxxx~~ openly profess their aims of war and not of peace towards Israel.

There can be no doubt that the draft resolution is liable to uphold the rejection of peace by Jordan and the other Arab states.

5. The draft resolution is thus directly and indirectly bound to encourage the aggressive forces in the Arab states, and in particular in Jordan, to persist in their provocative acts in the border zones against the inhabitants of Israel.

Even when Stateless, our people demonstrated its capacity to defend itself in the countries of its dispersion.

The State of Israel considers it to be its foremost duty to protect the lives of its citizens and will not be weakened in this resolve by the proposed terms of the resolution.

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Our women and children will not be left defenceless in the face of murderers who cross from Jordan or from any other Arab country. The U.N. authorities failed to bring to the notice of the Security Council the full tale of the tragedy of bloodshed in Israel. This is no case of "unauthorized crossings of demarcation lines", as the draft resolution chooses to define the murderous attacks actually taking place, but a guerilla war, planned or tolerated by the Government of Jordan and other Arab Governments.

In my broadcast on the Kibya incident of 19th October 1953, I gave clear expression to the Government of Israel's regret at the shedding of innocent blood, wherever it may occur. At the same time it is our duty to proclaim that we shall take all legitimate measures in our power to ensure that Jewish lives, too, shall not be left unprotected.

