

**Middle East conflict -
Lebanon. Correspondence,
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Mi...**

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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Middle East conflict 1958 - June 30

David Ben Gurion (Prime Min. of Israel)

— to Sec. Gen.

TEXT OF LETTER DATED 30 JUNE FROM ISRAEL PREMIER
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

"It is not easy for me to trouble you with our small affairs, but I owe you a reply to your letter of 23 June 1958 and should like to make a few observations.

I am sorry to note that following our meeting at my home on the eve of your departure, you modified your position and expressed objections to the visit of Mr. Tekoah and Alouf Mishne Peled to Mount Scopus. I respect the confidence you place in Mr. Cordier, but I should have thought that if I was requested to do something, I should enjoy the right of having the situation examined by men in whom I have confidence. After all, the right of free access to Mount Scopus has been granted by the GAA to every Israeli. In this particular case I gave orders to allow the inhabitants of Issawiya free passage along a track passing through our area, provided these inhabitants refrained from encroachments on the area; and this because we did not wish to encumber your attempts to bring about the implementation of article VIII.

It is my hope that the United Nations will publish General von Horn's statement on the results of the ballistic examination so that no doubt will remain in the minds of readers as to the place whence the bullet which killed Colonel Flint was fired.

I cannot end this letter without expressing my deep apprehensions at the abandonment of Lebanon to the intrigues of the ruler of the U.A.R. I am convinced that not only the fate of Lebanon but also that of Jordan and Iraq may be decided by these activities which undermine the independence of Lebanon. I have no reason to defend Camille Chamoun, and anyway we do not interfere in the domestic affairs of Foreign States, but I am concerned for the fate of the Middle East.

I do not know what promises the President of the U.A.R. gave you, and I do not claim any right to know them, but I do know that arms, ammunition and armed men cross the border daily from Syria into Lebanon and that United Nations Observers are not allowed to approach some of the areas along the Syrian frontier. Is not a Middle Eastern Munich in the making? I hope I shall be proved wrong.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

David Ben Gurion"