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GENERAL

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20 July 1961

ENGLISH

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CABLE DATED 20 JULY 1961 FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TUNISIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Since the afternoon of 19 July, the town and the Government of Bizerta have been under attack by the French navy and air force. Furthermore, 800 French paratroopers have been dropped over Bizerta, thus violating Tunisia's airspace despite the categorical prohibition of the Tunisian Government. Moreover, during the night of 19 to 20 July, French armoured units which had been inside the Bizerta base took up positions outside that base. During the same night, aircraft from warships cruising off Bizerta strafed the area unceasingly, killing and injuring many and causing considerable material damage. Machine-gun fire on the roads has also claimed many victims among the civilian population.

These acts represent a flagrant violation of the airspace and the territorial integrity of Tunisia, a Member of the United Nations. They also constitute a clear and premeditated act of aggression gravely threatening international peace and security.

Consequently, I have the honour to request you to convene the Security Council as a matter of extreme urgency for the purpose of considering the complaint which Tunisia is making against France for acts of aggression infringing the sovereignty and security of Tunisia and threatening international peace and security. In view of the gravity of the situation, my Government considers that it is the Security Council's duty to take such measures as it deems necessary in order to put an end to this aggression and to have all French troops withdrawn from Tunisian territory.

I have the honour to be, etc.

DOCTOR SADOK MOKADDEM
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Tunisia

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