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LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 9 February 1970 by the Permanent Representative of Syria (A/7949, S/9643), in reply to my letter of 2 February 1970 to the President of the Security Council (S/9634).

In my letter, I drew the Security Council's urgent attention to the intensification of Syrian aggression against Israel. I also pointed out that official Syrian spokesmen openly admit Syria's responsibility for initiating this campaign of aggression. A week later, the Syrian representative thought it advisable to go through the usual motion of shifting to Israel the responsibility for his Government's criminal behaviour.

On leaving for the recent Rabat conference, the Syrian Minister of Interior, Muhamad Rabah at-Tawil, who headed his country's delegation, declared on 19 December 1969:

"The Syrian Arab Region's revolution has never doubted, before or after the 5 June aggression, that battle with the Zionist enemy is inevitable. We cannot win this battle by negotiation or political action.

"The Syrian Arab Region will participate in the Arab summit conference in Rabat on the basis that the conference will mobilize all Arab capabilities for the battle for the Arab nation's existence. We think there is no alternative to armed struggle.

"We think all Arab States participating in the conference must take the path of armed struggle. These States should place all their economic, political and military capabilities in the service of that objective...."

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On 26 January 1970, Mustafa Tlass, Chief of Staff of the Syrian armed forces, stated:

"The way of armed struggle against the Zionist imperialist provocation is the only one. The people insist that this is the way to achieve victory and liberate the occupied land."

On 2 February 1970, the Damascus Radio declared:

"Efforts... to make up Arab losses and rebuild combat ability have begun to pay off. This capability has now reached the standard needed to deal blows against the enemy and inflict painful losses. The Syrian front shall force the enemy to reconsider the bragging he has indulged in since the June war."

This is Syria's policy. It requires no further comment. It is translated into action through the continued initiation by Syrian regular forces of armed attacks against Israel and through the Syrian Government's active support for and participation in the terror warfare pursued by irregular forces. These attacks and Syrian responsibility for them are widely reported and constantly confirmed by government spokesmen in Damascus.

It is odd for the Syrian representative to assume that States Members of the United Nations and their representatives are unaware of the above facts.

I have the honour to request circulation of this letter as a General Assembly and Security Council document.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
