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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE
TWELFTH REGULAR SESSION: ITEM PROPOSED BY SYRIA

COMPLAINT ABOUT THREATS TO THE SECURITY OF SYRIA
AND TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE

Letter dated 15 October 1957 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman
of the delegation of Syria, addressed to the Secretary-General

New York, 15 October 1957

The Syrian delegation, acting upon instructions of its Government, has the honour to request the inscription on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly of an item entitled:

"Complaint about threats to the security of Syria and to
international peace."

An explanatory memorandum is hereto attached.

The Syrian delegation would appreciate greatly an urgent meeting of the General Committee for the purpose of considering the inscription of the proposed item and its examination by the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure.

(Signed) Salah BITAR
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chairman of the Syrian
Delegation

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

For more than a year now, foreign actions affecting Syria and endangering its security and independence, as well as general peace, have been continuing. These actions have been increased and intensified during the last two months, and more so during the last two weeks.

At present there exists an actual military threat to Syria, resulting from the heavy, unprecedented and unwarranted concentration of Turkish troops, up to several divisions, in close proximity to the Syrian-Turkish border. These troops are being constantly reinforced. They are now massed mainly in a small sector, and have taken a disposition which presages imminent attack. The Turkish troops have apparently been given a slogan, "To Aleppo!" which they now publicly repeat.

Acts of a provocative nature have been happening. Foreign military airplanes have recurrently flown over Syrian territory near the Turkish border and at the Syrian coast, thus violating Syrian air space. Armed raids from Turkey into Syrian territory, clashes and shooting on the border and similar actions have become frequent.

The military pressures on Syria and threats to its security are connected with other actions, such as interference in the affairs of Syria to sway its policy or overthrow its Government. Foreign activities of that nature have been going on. One of them was discovered, and those implicated in it were turned over to the courts of justice, convicted and condemned. More recently, another attempt to overthrow the Government of Syria by violent action was discovered.

Some of the accused in these attempts were able to escape justice. They have somehow gathered in Turkey. From there they have been active in their efforts to overthrow the Government of Syria with foreign help, and to set up for Syria a government which would fall in line with the policies of some foreign Powers.

A few days ago substantial amounts of hidden arms were discovered. They had been smuggled into Syria and were intended for use in violent action prepared against Syria and its Government.

The above-mentioned actions have been accompanied by other foreign pressures on the Syrian people and Government, in order to create conditions which would bring about internal unrest and international strife. Besides pressures of a political

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nature, there is a campaign of propaganda that has been mounted, ordained and directed to create animosity towards Syria, in order to pave the way for adventurous action against Syria.

It is evident that the security and independence of Syria are being endangered. The present situation has indeed reached the point whereby measures by the United Nations, in fulfilment of its Charter, are necessary. Serious international frictions have developed. A war starting in the Middle East would, we are certain, cause wide international complications. The present situation is one which actually endangers general peace.

As this situation was developing, and in order to prevent any deterioration in it, the Syrian Government through diplomatic channels repeatedly called upon the Member States concerned to end their activities against the security of Syria and general peace. Unfortunately, no fruitful results were realized.

The Syrian Government also called attention to the concentration of Turkish troops near the Syrian-Turkish border, by the letter of the Syrian delegation to the Secretary-General dated 8 October 1957.

Despite all diplomatic and other efforts, the situation went on deteriorating rapidly in the last few days, until it now has become intolerably dangerous.

In the circumstances, the Syrian delegation feels it necessary that the General Assembly deal urgently with the proposed item, and take such measures as called for by the Charter of the United Nations.

The Syrian delegation deems it appropriate that a commission be set up by the General Assembly to investigate the situation on the Syrian-Turkish border and report to the Assembly. An impartial and international investigation of that nature would surely help to lay the facts before the United Nations.

In proposing this item, the Syrian Government is moved by its responsibility to its own people and to the international community. All that Syria seeks is to live securely in peace and to co-operate with other countries in accordance with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.
