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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB  
TERRITORIES INCLUDING PALESTINE

Letter dated 8 February 1985 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at  
Geneva addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for  
Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and has the honour to draw his attention to the note sent by the Permanent Mission of Israel to the Secretary-General of the United Nations which was distributed under symbol E/CN.4/1985/34 on 4 January 1985 under item 4 of the agenda, and in which phrases and words were used which detract from the dignity of the Commission and its members, cast doubt on their objectivity and make serious accusations against them, such as the allegation that the main objective of its resolutions "is to serve the military, diplomatic and propaganda warfare which has been waged against Israel".

It was also alleged that "these resolutions compromise the integrity and credibility of the Commission".

The Observer for Israel once again used the same language and addressed the same derogatory remarks to the Commission in his statement made before the Commission in the afternoon of Thursday, 7 February 1985, in which he said: "What it (the Israeli delegation) deplores even more is the constant erosion of the Commission's moral authority because of its double standards ...".

Accordingly, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic believes that it is necessary to put an end to these affronts to the Commission on Human Rights and its members, since to ignore them would only encourage the delegation of Israel to persist in its aggressive, offensive attitude, thereby weakening the moral authority of this Commission which is one of the most important organs of the United Nations and enjoys considerable respect and esteem for the work that it is doing in promoting human rights in various parts of the world.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic requests that this note should be distributed as an official document.

(Signed) Adib Daoudy  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative