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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 4 February 1986 from the Permanent Representative of
the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter addressed to you by Mr. Farouk Al-Sharaa', Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, concerning the act of piracy committed by Israel against a civilian aircraft of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya carrying an official Syrian political delegation, headed by Mr. Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab Baath Socialist Party. I request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dia-Allah EL-FATTAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 4 February 1986 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Secretary-General

I wish to inform you of the act of air piracy carried out by two Israeli fighter aircraft in international airspace over the Mediterranean Sea against a Libyan civilian aircraft carrying an official Syrian political delegation on its way back from an official visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

At 0854 hours universal time on 4 February 1986, the private Libyan civilian G-2 type aircraft registered under No. LN 777(5 - ADDR NDAE) left Tripoli International Airport, Libya, with an official Syrian delegation, headed by Mr. Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, on board.

While the aircraft was flying in international airspace over the Mediterranean Sea, the pilot informed the Cyprus Airport control centre, at 1101 hours, that two Israeli fighter aircraft were intercepting him and demanding that he accompany them. Two minutes later, i.e., at 1103 hours the aircraft's contact with Cyprus Airport was broken off.

In transmitting this information to you, I wish to draw your attention to the gravity of this terrorist act against the safety and security of civilian travel in international airspace and the dangerous consequences deriving therefrom, and I request that the necessary steps and measures be taken to discover the fate of the said aircraft and its passengers and crew and to ensure their safety. Syria places full responsibility for this air piracy upon Israel and requests you to inform the President and members of the Security Council of this action, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the norms of international law and international conventions guaranteeing the freedom and safety of aviation.

While awaiting your notification of the measures which you take in this matter, I request you to circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Farouk AL-SHARAA'
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Syrian Arab Republic
