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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 25 June 1971 from the Chargé d'affaires of the
Permanent Mission of Syria to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government and with reference to the letter addressed to you on 23 June 1971 (A/8327, S/10234) by the representative of Israel in reply to my letter of 21 June 1971 (A/8326, S/10232), I have the honour to state the following:

1. The representative of Israel, who "sees no useful purpose in answering letters" addressed to Your Excellency, has once more attempted to undermine the validity of United Nations resolutions. In calling decisions unanimously adopted "one-sided", he is admitting that Israel - like South Africa - stands on one side and the international community on the other.
2. The representative of Israel has always avoided answering facts and figures taken from Israeli sources concerning Israeli expansionist plans in the occupied Golan Heights, particularly the building of tens of Israeli colonies, and the razing to the ground of Syrian towns and villages. Israeli official silence on these matters reveals the degree of contempt that Israel bears towards the world Organization, its Charter and its resolutions.
3. To speak of peace and practise war and lawlessness has always been an "interesting" facet of Israeli diplomacy. The Israeli concept of peace was not long ago reiterated by Mr. Tekoah himself. On the occasion of the "twenty-third anniversary of Israel" - which corresponds to the twenty-third anniversary of the

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destitution of the Arab peoples of Palestine - Mr. Tekoah had the following to say as reported by the Israel Digest (Volume XIV, No. 9) of 30 April 1971:

"The Great Powers and international organizations still erroneously believe that the idea that Israel might yet agree to a settlement 'contrary to its will and interests has not yet been abandoned'.

"Declaring that 'in no part of the world have international borders been eternally frozen and immutable, that there have been boundary changes on all continents, and that Israel will be an exception...."

4. In his attempt to impose Zionist tutelage over Syrian citizens of the Jewish faith, the Israeli representative sought to divert attention from the plight of oriental Jews in Israel itself.

Official Israeli pronouncements, press and eyewitness reports from Israel amply substantiate the fact that the Israeli authorities are practising racial discrimination, economic deprivation, social and cultural segregation against Jews of oriental descent. World public opinion, which was shocked by these revelations, was also able to draw its own conclusions as to the treatment of Arabs in Israel and in territories occupied since June 1967.

5. Mr. Tekoah chose to reiterate a deceitful propagandistic slogan which seeks to smear national liberation movements. To pretend that Zionism may have any affinity whatsoever with "liberation movements" is tantamount to accepting the claim that the racist exclusivist colonial-settlers' régimes of Pretoria and Salisbury are also liberation movements.

The common denominator among these three régimes is that, in their distorted conception of life, "liberation" is synonymous with usurpation of the rights of the original inhabitants of the land they occupy by force. As long as their exclusivist racist aims are not entirely fulfilled, these régimes will continue to wage their colonial aggression under the guise of "national liberation".

C.L. Sulzberger reported in his editorial article "Strange Nonalliance" in The New York Times, 30 April 1971, that "Prime Minister Vorster even goes so far as to say Israel is now faced with an apartheid problem - how to handle its Arab inhabitants". The article added, "Both South Africa and Israel are in a sense intruded States".

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The only deduction from such a view is that as the original inhabitants are intruders, they should therefore be evicted and segregated against. The best elucidation of the Israel lexicon on "liberation" is to be found in Israeli sources criticizing the imperialist policies of Israel:

"Liberated areas have a magnificent history. During the Second World War, for example, Hitler liberated a large part of the Soviet Union from the Communists. He also liberated Austria from the Austrians, France from the French, the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia, and so on. At the end, of course, the Allies liberated Germany from Hitler and created two German States (so that Germany would never again be able to liberate). Previously, Mussolini had liberated Libya from the Libyans and Ethiopia from the Ethiopians. In Jerusalem, a few months ago, an attempt was made to liberate several houses in Abu-Tor, but the police did not allow this: it is illegal to liberate unless it is done to entire countries or at least to sizeable portions of them" (Israel Imperial News, 1/9 March 1968, p. 16).

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Rafic JOUEJATI
Minister-Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires
