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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 5 June 1970 from the Permanent Representative of Syria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter to you of 9 February 1970 (S/9643, A/7949) concerning, inter alia, the annexation by Israel of occupied Syrian territory as officially announced by the Prime Minister and other Cabinet members of Israel, I have the honour to inform you of an additional and most recent outrageous development.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency on 1 June 1970 published this item:

"\$48 Million Five-Year Plan to Expand Israeli Settlement in Golan Heights Approved"

"Jerusalem, 31 May (JTA)- A \$48 million five-year plan to expand Israeli settlements in the occupied Golan Heights was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture's planning committee today. The project calls for the addition of six new settlements to the eleven already established in the region. Each settlement will have 1,000 head of cattle and about 8,000 acres of pasture land for grazing. Golan settlements already produce potatoes, grapes, citrus fruits, plums, olives and walnuts."

Thus another proof is given to the international community of the determination of Israel to make of its illegal military occupation of part of Syria a fait accompli. This new act of international banditry, this manifestation of guilt, proves the utter contempt of the Israeli Government for international law and jurisprudence - specifically, the following:

1. Security Council resolution 235 (1967), adopted unanimously on 9 June 1967 after both Israel and Syria had accepted the two cease-fire

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resolutions 233 (1967) and 234 (1967) of the Council. Israel utterly ignored this, started its onslaught on Syrian territory. Resolution 235 (1967), following the Israeli attack on Syria, specifically stated:

"The Security Council,

"Recalling its resolutions 233 (1967) of 6 June and 234 (1967) of 7 June 1967,

"Noting that the Governments of Israel and Syria have announced their mutual acceptance of the Council's demand for a cease-fire,

"...

"1. Confirms its previous resolutions about immediate cease-fire and cessation of military action; /my italics/

"2. Demands that hostilities should cease forthwith."

But Israel carried on its attack and occupied more Syrian territory. Thereupon Security Council resolution 236 (1967) was adopted unanimously on 11 June 1967, and it stated:

"1. Condemns any and all violations of the cease-fire;

"...

"3. Affirms that its demand for a cease-fire and discontinuance of all military activities includes a prohibition of any forward military movements subsequent to the cease-fire; /my italics/

"4. Calls for the prompt return to the cease-fire positions of any troops which may have moved forward subsequent to 1630 hours GMT on 10 June 1967."

2. Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter, which prohibits any State Member of the United Nations to use force against the territorial integrity of any State.

3. The Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949.

4. All humanitarian resolutions - at least thirty by now - adopted by the General Assembly and its various organs. Suffice it to mention resolution 2452 A (XXIII), which was adopted by 100 votes in favour, with only Israel

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voting against - thus utterly trampling upon the overwhelming will of the international community. This resolution asked unconditionally the return of the new displaced persons, as follows:

"Emphasizing, consequently, the requirement for their speedy return,

"1. Calls upon the Government of Israel to take effective and immediate steps for the return without delay of those inhabitants who have fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities."

In this tragic situation, the responsibility of the United States Government, by supporting the defiance of Israel, must once more be emphasized, for the following reasons:

(1) The Settlement Department of the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture works as one body with the Jewish Agency, American Section (515 Park Avenue, New York City), which operates freely in the United States, and whose responsibility is defined in the authoritative American Jewish Yearbook 1969 (volume 70), p. 492:

"Represents in the U.S. the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Jerusalem, which is recognized by the State of Israel as the authorized agency to work in Israel for development and colonization, the absorption and settlement of immigrants, and the co-ordination of activities of Jewish institutions and associations operating in these fields."

This despicable act of colonization is carried out with hundreds of millions of American tax-deductible dollars, to settle the occupied areas of three Arab States Members of the United Nations - Syria, Jordan and the United Arab Republic. The encouragement of the United States Government to this act of colonization constitutes by itself a crime against humanity as defined by the Nuremberg statutes.

(2) The United States Government itself has given Israel, since its occupation of Arab territories after the blitzkrieg of 5 June 1967, hundreds of millions of dollars to support its crumbling economy, as well as the most sophisticated airplanes and arms, including bombs to kill school children and innocent civilians in the Arab countries. The United States Government cannot escape its grave and ultimate collusion in this crime.

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(3) Most recently, seventy-three Senators of the United States Senate, for obvious politicking and vote-getting motives, urged the President, after the bankruptcy of his Indo-Chinese adventure, to give Israel 125 Phantoms and Sky-Hawks.

(4) On 4 June the World Bank, under pressure from its President, Mr. Robert McNamara, one of the heroes of the barbaric war in Viet-Nam, approved a \$25 million loan to Israel, in the face of the opposition of a large number of member States of the Bank. It is a matter of regret, not only for Syria and the Arab countries, but for all peace-loving nations, peoples and Governments, that the Director of the World Bank should abuse his influence to loan millions of dollars to an aggressive State that has put itself outside the pale of law, and squander the funds of member States of the World Bank - thus confirming his own association of guilt in another sensitive area of the world, the Middle East.

In this connexion, and to set the record clear - the area of the occupied Syrian territory is 150,000 hectares. The number of newly displaced persons, including old refugees, is 138,000. The estimated value of the agricultural and animal revenues for the year 1966 amounted to 67,643 million Syrian pounds - this, not to speak of the movable and immovable property of these new displaced persons, which amounts to hundreds of millions of Syrian pounds, all expropriated and now being exploited by Israel. A State which occupies by sheer military power this and other Arab areas should not even be considered for a loan from an international agency.

Indeed, the responsibility of the American Government has been affirmed by the communiqué issued at the closure of the conference of five Arab States held in Cairo between 7 and 9 February 1970, which was circulated on 19 February 1970 (A/7952, S/9654), which, inter alia, reads:

"Israel would not have gone that far in her aggression in utter disregard of all human values and principles nor would it have defied world public opinion and violated the United Nations Charter and resolutions had it not been for its continued reliance on the backing of the United States, which supplies it with armaments and aircraft, permits its citizens to serve in the Israeli Armed Forces and extends to Israel its political support in the international field."

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Upon instructions from my Government I shall be grateful if you will kindly circulate this letter as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
