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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-first year

Letter dated 28 July 1976 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Syria on 22 July 1976 (A/31/159-S/12151).

The charge that Israeli forces opened fire on Syrian civilians working their fields on 21 June is untrue. The only firing by Israeli forces in the area in question on that date was a routine weapons test during which, in compliance with standing orders, the test shots were all directed west of line A and in no case into Syrian territory. This is borne out by the UNDOF investigation.

In the face of the massive military intervention by Syria in Lebanon this attempt to inflate a routine and insignificant weapons test into an international incident deserving of the attention of the Secretary-General, the Security Council and the General Assembly is nothing less than absurd.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 29 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pinhas ELIAV
Acting Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

* A/31/150.