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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-first year

Note verbale dated 22 November 1976 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, confirming his conversation with His Excellency on Saturday, 20 November 1976, has the honour to inform him that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has decided to approve the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for another period of six months.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has issued the enclosed statement in connexion with this decision which the Permanent Representative kindly requests to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 29, and of the Security Council.

ANNEX

Statement by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic

The mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) ends later this month. In response to appeals made to it by friendly and peace-loving States and to efforts by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Syria has, in the past, accepted the renewal of this Force with the objective, at that time, of providing an opportunity for international attempts to achieve true progress on the road to peace. That progress, however, did not materialize, due to Israel's obstinate refusal to implement the United Nations resolutions. This led to a return to the state of "no-war no-peace" in the area and placed the Middle East region at a cross-roads, thus increasing tensions and diminishing the opportunities of reaching a just and lasting peace, with all the possibilities this entails of an explosion endangering international peace and security. Notwithstanding these conditions, created by Israeli intransigence, international efforts are still under way with a view to reaching an over-all solution to the Middle East conflict. Syria has, more often than not, responded favourably to these efforts, thus giving the international community more opportunities to intensify its efforts to begin building a just and permanent peace based on complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and ensuring the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It is to be hoped that these opportunities will not be lost, since the Arab countries, which have on numerous occasions demonstrated their desire to achieve a just peace, cannot in the meantime remain silent regarding Israel's persistent defiance of the will of the United Nations and its depriving the Arab people of Palestine of their rights, as asserted in numerous United Nations resolutions and documents, the latest of which was the unanimous statement a/ adopted a few days ago by the Security Council strongly denouncing Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories and stating them to be an obstacle to peace.

The Syrian Arab Republic, proceeding from a position of principle and in keeping with the spirit of giving international efforts a chance to achieve a just and lasting peace based on the afore-mentioned principles, has decided to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further six-month period, thus proving once again its awareness of its national and international responsibilities, hoping that this time the international community will assume its responsibility and prevent Israel from continuing to undermine the chances for peace, to violate the Charter of the United Nations and to defy the United Nations and its resolutions on the question of Palestine and the Middle East problem. However, Syria cannot, meanwhile, accept - and in that it is in complete solidarity with its fellow Arab States - Israel's endless occupation of the Arab territories and its persistence in depriving the Palestinian people of their rights.

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