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LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1981 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement by TASS on Israel's decision of 18 December 1981 to extend its laws to the Syrian Golan Heights.

I should be grateful if you would have the statement circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

Annex

Statement issued by TASS on 18 December 1981

Tel Aviv has taken a decision to extend Israel's laws to the Syrian Golan Heights which were occupied by Israel in 1967.

In this connexion TASS is authorized to state that the leadership of the Soviet Union regards that decision as an attempt to annex territory which has been Syria's since time immemorial, as a gross violation of the United Nations Charter and international law and specifically of well-known Security Council resolutions relating to a Middle East settlement. This provocative action undertaken by Israel against the Arabs and most directly against the sovereign Syrian Arab Republic will lead to an even more dangerous exacerbation of the situation in the Middle East.

This latest aggressive act of Israel is closely linked to the militaristic policy of the United State of America and is the direct consequence of the anti-Arab Camp David accords and the policy of making separate deals. It is a tangible example of United States-Israel "strategic co-operation", the result of the merging of the imperialistic interests of the United States and the expansionist ambitions of Israel.

Like Israel's other recent acts of aggression, the attempt to annex the Golan Heights means that Tel Aviv is doing everything in its power to block a peaceful settlement in the Middle East even though such a course is fraught with serious consequences, especially for Israel itself and its people.

Israel's action sharply highlights the need to call the aggressor to order. A sharp rebuff to Israel's expansionist policy can and must be given by the United Nations, specifically its Security Council, which has the necessary authority for that purpose.

No matter how Israel may try to entrench itself in the occupied Arab territories, any such effort is hopeless. No one can deny the Arab peoples their inalienable sovereign rights. When the time comes, history will have the final word in the matter.

The Soviet Union strongly condemns Israel's encroachment on foreign lands and affirms its solidarity with the Syrian and other Arab peoples. It will continue to support their just cause and strive for a comprehensive settlement and a just peace in the Middle East.
