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Note verbale dated 15 December 1981 from the Permanent Representative
of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Japan presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to inform him that, on 15 December 1981, His Excellency Mr. Yoshio Sakurauchi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, issued the following statement regarding the passing by the Knesset of legislation concerning the Golan Heights:

1. The Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) passed legislation which in effect annexes the Golan Heights on 14 December. Japan cannot condone such a unilateral change to the legal status of an occupied territory by Israel, following the annexation of East Jerusalem in July 1980, which is in total violation of international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

2. The Government of Japan is deeply concerned that such an action would not only impair the atmosphere that exists for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflicts through peaceful means, but would also heighten tension in the region.

3. On this occasion, the Government of Japan reiterates its strong demand that Israel withdraw from all the territories occupied in 1967 as early as possible.

It is hoped that the Secretary-General will have this note circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.
