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NEW PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

Rafik Asha, the new Permanent Representative of Syria to the United Nations, today presented his credentials to the Secretary-General, U Thant. He was accompanied by Sinan A. Korle, Acting United Nations Chief of Protocol.

Ambassador Asha has been Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Syria since 1962, and was previously Syria's Ambassador to the USSR (from November 1961). Before that, he was Ambassador to Romania (September to November 1961), Alternate Representative to the United Nations Security Council, Representative of the United Arab Republic at the Second United Nations Tin Conference (1960), Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources (1960), and Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Arab Republic to the United Nations (May 1959). He was President of the Council of the League of Arab States and Chairman of its Political Committee (March 1959), Chairman of the United Arab Republic delegation to the thirty-first session of that Council, and a delegate to the thirteenth session of the General Assembly (1958). He was also Director General of Political Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Damascus (1957), and before that President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council (June 1956 to May 1957).

Ambassador Asha's association with the activities of the United Nations began in 1948, when he was appointed Acting Permanent Representative of Syria. In 1951 he became Permanent Representative. After assignments in Washington, where he occupied the functions of Charge d'Affaires ad interim (August 1952), he became a delegate of his country to many sessions of the General Assembly. He served on the Committee on Contributions and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and besides presiding over the Trusteeship Council was Chairman and Rapporteur of several committees of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Asha was born in Damascus in 1910 and studied in Beirut and the United States. He joined the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1944.

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