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GENERAL

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LETTER DATED 4 MAY 1951 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SYRIAN DELEGATION  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Excellency,

I have the honor to make the following report received from my Government regarding the incidents which have taken place in the demilitarized zone between May 2 and 3, 1951:

"On May 2, 1951, at 18.00 hours, an Israeli force of one hundred troops approximately, armed with machine guns and automatic rifles, attacked the Shamalnah Arabs who live north-west of the point where the Jordan river enters into Lake Tiberias. The Israeli troops tried to drive the cattle belonging to the Shamalnah Arabs into Israeli territory. Although the Arab villagers put up a strong resistance, which cost them two casualties and the loss of a number of cattle, the Israeli aggressors succeeded in stealing part of the cattle after an exchange of heavy fire with the Arab villagers.

"On the same day, at 11.15 hours, three Israeli Air Force planes, flying at an altitude of about 700 metres, crossed the air frontier limits into Syria. At 16.00 hours, another Israeli Air Force plane flew at low altitude over the Syrian outpost of Al-Hassel (map reference 255/800 and 207/900), thus committing another violation of the territorial integrity of Syria.

"On May 3, 1951, a new attack was launched against the Shamalnah Arabs by two Israeli detachments, numbering 300 troops each. This new action, which was witnessed by the United Nations observers, was supported by a heavy artillery and mortars, shelling and destroying the homes of those innocent Arabs. The Syrian Delegation to the Mixed Armistice Commission lodged a complaint with the Commission against this inhuman and arbitrary violation of the Armistice Agreement. The United Nations observers went to investigate the incident on the spot, but they were prevented from carrying out their duties by the Israeli troops who fired at the white-painted car of the United Nations observers.

"In the region of Jisr Banat Yacub, in the central sector of the demilitarized zone, Israeli troops opened the fire of their machine guns on the Arab inhabitants of that region, and at the nearby Syrian outpost, but the Syrian guards did not return the fire.

"This new provocative and hostile act committed by Israel was promptly reported to the Chairman of the Armistice Commission by the Syrian delegation to the MAC for immediate investigation."

The Syrian Government, therefore, gives the assurance that in no case did Syrian forces take part in, or retort to, the provocative and hostile acts committed by Israel during the last two days.

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/Contrary to  
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Contrary to the allegations made by the Israeli delegation before the Security Council at its meeting of May 2, 1951, the recent incidents which were intentionally provoked and perpetrated by Israeli land and air forces against the innocent Arab inhabitants of the demilitarized zone, constitute another manifestation of the determination of the Tel Aviv authorities to occupy the demilitarized zone after getting rid of its Arab inhabitants in the same manner employed previously vis a vis the Palestine Arab refugees. For its part, the Syrian Government, faithful to its pledges embodied in the Armistice Agreement, declares that it nourishes no desire of occupying any part of the demilitarized zone; and the Israeli Government should maintain a similar attitude pending the final settlement of the Palestine question.

I respectfully request that this letter be circulated to the members of the Security Council.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Faris El-Khoury  
Chairman of the Syrian Delegation  
to the United Nations.

His Excellency  
The President of the Security Council  
United Nations  
New York