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LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1951 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
SYRIAN DELEGATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to my communication dated May 21, I have the honour to bring the following to the attention of the Security Council.

On May 18 the Security Council adopted a resolution which noted in paragraph 3: "that the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization in a memorandum of 7 March 1951, and the Chairman of the Syrian-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission on a number of occasions have requested the Israel delegation to the Mixed Armistice Commission to ensure that the Palestine Land Development Company, Limited, is instructed to cease all operations in the demilitarized zone until such time as an agreement is arranged through the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission". Paragraph 5 endorsed: "the requests of the Chief of Staff and the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission on this matter and calls upon the Government of Israel to comply with them".

In our view Paragraphs 3 and 5 are crystal clear; they call unequivocally for a complete stoppage of operations in the demilitarized zone, irrespective of ownership of land. Notwithstanding this clarity, however, the Israeli authorities have attributed a distorted meaning to paragraph 3 in declaring that their compliance with the terms of the resolution calls only for a stoppage of work on Arab lands in the demilitarized zone. Under this false interpretation, they are continuing their work on Jewish-owned land in the zone.

My Government feels that such an interpretation, aside from being alien to the letter and spirit of the Security Council resolution, is prejudicial to a fair settlement of this problem.

It is the fervent hope of the Syrian Government that the Security Council will see to it that a strict and faithful observance of its resolution is heeded.

(Signed) Faris EL-KHOURI
Chairman of the Syrian delegation
to the United Nations