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GENERAL

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LETTER DATED 28 MAY 1951 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
SYRIAN DELEGATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Under instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring the following to the attention of the Security Council:

Among its complaints to the Security Council, regarding Israeli violations of the Syrian-Israel Armistice Agreement, the Syrian Government listed with particular emphasis the forcible evacuation of Arab inhabitants from their homes in the demilitarized zone.

Consequently when the Security Council adopted its resolution of 18 May (S/2157), a note was taken of that complaint, and the Council (a) decided "that Arab civilians who have been removed from the demilitarized zone by the Government of Israel should be permitted to return forthwith to their homes and that the Mixed Armistice Commission should supervise their return and rehabilitation in a manner to be determined by the Commission," and (b) held "that no action involving the transfer of persons across international frontiers, armistice lines or within the demilitarized zone should be undertaken without prior decision of the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission."

So far the Israeli authorities have taken no measures to implement this clear injunction of the Security Council. In a radio broadcast, on 25 May they declared that the chieftains of the Arab villages of Bakkara and Ghanameh, who previously were removed against their will to the village of Shaab near Acre, have sent requests to be admitted with their cattle and belongings inside Israel territory.

It is clear from this declaration that the Israeli authorities have no intention of abiding by the Security Council resolution, and that they still aim at extorting from the Arab inhabitants of the demilitarized zone an acceptance to relinquish their rights to their lands which are situated near Lake Huleh.

The Syrian Government wishes to draw the attention of the Security Council to the fact that the Arabs who were forcibly evacuated from their homes in the demilitarized zone are still under heavy restrictions and consequently unable freely to express themselves. Moreover the United Nations observers have so far failed to gain access to them to verify their real intentions.

Due to these various considerations the Syrian Government feels bound to reserve its right vis à vis such alleged requests by the Arab inhabitants in the demilitarized zone, and to protest against the unnecessary delay by Israel in giving effect to the provisions of the Security Council resolution.

(Signed) Faiz EL-KHOURI
Representative of Syria to
the Security Council,
Minister Plenipotentiary
