

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY
COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/9494
S/11222
19 February 1974

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 22
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Twenty-ninth year

Letter dated 16 February 1974 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government and further to the letter addressed to you on 12 February 1974 (A/9490-S/11217) by the Acting Permanent Representative of Israel regarding Syrian violations of the cease-fire, I have the honour to draw your attention to additional grave Syrian violations and attacks on Israeli forces which took place between 12 and 15 February inclusive.

These violations included two attempts to cross the cease-fire line and advance positions; one case of crossing the cease-fire line accompanied by the opening of small-arms and bazooka fire on an Israeli patrol; two cases of small-arms fire; one case of firing anti-tank missiles; five cases of artillery fire.

Detailed complaints in respect of all these Syrian violations and attacks on Israeli forces have been lodged with the United Nations observers headquarters.

As pointed out in our previous letters to you, these attacks, which are causing casualties, prove the existence of a deliberate policy of the Syrian Government with the object of creating an atmosphere of military confrontation, attacking Israeli forces and attempting to effect changes in the cease-fire line in favour of Syria. Moreover, the heads of the Syrian Government openly boast of these acts of aggression and proclaim that it is their policy to wage a war of attrition against Israel.

As for the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Syria on 12 February 1974 (A/9491-S/11219), its only object is to divert attention from the Syrian policy of aggression which has been continuing since the cease-fire and which finds expression in the very submission of the said Syrian letter. This policy, as pointed out above, has been proclaimed in the declarations made by the heads of the Syrian Government and is reflected in the reports of the United Nations observers.

74-04513

(2 p.)

/...

A/9494
S/11222
English
Page 2

As part of the tissue of lies put out by Syria, it has renewed its old and completely baseless allegations concerning Israeli positions in the Mount Hermon area, that have already been refuted in my letter to you of 3 November 1973 (A/9281-S/11075) which clearly stated that Israeli forces have been in all of these positions since before the cease-fire.

The Syrian letter under reference, furthermore, constitutes an attempt to detract attention from the inhuman attitude displayed by the Syrian Government in respect of the Israeli prisoners of war and from the brutal and continuous violation by Syria of all its most elementary international obligations under the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949. 1/

These violations have aroused the resentment of many Governments and the growing indignation and protest in enlightened world public opinion.

The Syrian Government is completely mistaken if it believes that by crude propaganda letters like the one under reference and its additional letter addressed to you on 14 February 1974 (A/9493-S/11220) it could succeed in diverting attention from its announced policy of inflaming the situation on the cease-fire line and from the increasing world-wide wrath at its inhuman attitude in respect of the Israeli prisoners of war.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 972, p. 135.

