

# UNITED NATIONS



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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Twenty-ninth year

Letter dated 27 March 1974 from the Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Syria on 21 February 1974 (A/9495-S/11227) and to state the following:

The Israel authorities reject completely and unequivocally the unfounded charges in the Syrian note of 16 January 1974 to the International Committee of the Red Cross, annexed to the aforesaid letter. In fact, the exact opposite of the Syrian accusation is true. The quick, efficient and devoted medical attention given to Lt. Col. Adnan Elhaj Khedr undoubtedly saved his life after the crash of his helicopter, in which his right leg was severed and the other crushed beyond recovery. No amputation operation took place in a field hospital. Only first aid attention was given in the field, including blood transfusion and morphine injections. Lt. Col. Adnan Elhaj Khedr was then immediately transferred to a hospital where the necessary amputation was performed.

Red Cross delegates in Israel have been visiting Syrian prisoners-of-war regularly after their capture and, in the case of the wounded, there have also been visits by a Red Cross medical officer. The report of the Red Cross states that the treatment given to the prisoners-of-war is in accordance with the highest medical standards.

The Syrian note of 16 January 1974 to the International Committee of the Red Cross, annexed to the above-mentioned letter of 21 February 1974, was not transmitted to Israel by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which evidently did not consider the Syrian complaint of a character justifying transmission to the Israel authorities.

Lt. Col. Adnan Elhaj Khedr himself told an inter-faith group which visited him in the hospital that he had nothing but praise for the medical

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attention and general treatment he had received. The other charges in the Syrian note of 16 January 1974 are so frivolous that their authors themselves do not even try to make them specific.

The purpose of the Syrian letter is obvious. It is to try to spread atrocity propaganda in a blatant attempt to cover up the grave charges made against the Syrian authorities in the Israel complaints of deliberate murder, as specified in notes presented to the International Committee of the Red Cross on 10 November 1973 and 9 December 1973, copies of which were submitted to the Secretary-General on 22 November 1973 (A/9333-S/11126) and 8 December 1973 (A/9429-S/11148).

I 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

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