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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Twenty-ninth year

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

On instructions of my Government and further to my letter addressed to you on 10 April 1974 (A/9513-S/11257) regarding persistent Syrian armed attacks along the cease-fire line, I wish to inform you that Syria has pursued and further intensified its acts of aggression in the period 10 to 15 April 1974 inclusive.

During this period, Syria perpetrated 43 artillery attacks, opened ground-to-air missile fire in three cases and anti-tank missile fire in one case. On 12, 13 and 14 April, Syrian forces carried out armed incursions and assaults across the cease-fire line in the Hermon area causing the Israel Defence Forces to respond in self-defence and with a view to preserving the integrity of the cease-fire line and repelling the Syrian attacks. These Syrian attacks have resulted in casualties.

Syria's campaign of aggression continues to be reflected in reports by United Nations military observers, whose posts and patrol bases have not been spared by the Syrian attacks.

The baseless claims regarding the situation and contained in letters to you from the Permanent Representative of Syria are refuted by his own Government.

Thus, President Assad, while on a visit to the Soviet Union, declared on 11 April 1974 that, as far as Syria is concerned, the October war is still continuing and will not end until two objectives are fulfilled: total withdrawal and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinians. On 15 April 1974, Radio Damascus quoted President Assad as having said on the same day in Moscow that Syria "is determined to continue the war until Israel is defeated".

Furthermore, the commentator of the governmental Syrian television declared, on 13 April 1974, that the Syrian Government considers that the cease-fire agreement is invalid and that Syria is in a state of war with Israel.

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Today, 16 April 1974, at the time of writing, Syrian artillery attacks are continuing.

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

