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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Twenty-eighth year

Letter dated 26 December 1973 from the Acting 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 18 December 1973 (A/9468-S/11160).

That letter constitutes yet another insolent attempt by the Damascus authorities at laying a smoke-screen and is to be seen as part of their diversionary tactics in view of the growing feeling of wrath and shock expressed in many countries throughout the world, in international organizations and institutions and by enlightened public opinion regarding the barbarous treatment meted out by the Syrian Government to Israeli prisoners of war.

This inhuman attitude was manifested by the cold-blooded murder of at least 42 Israeli prisoners and is further demonstrated by the persistent Syrian refusal to supply lists of these prisoners and to enable the representatives of the Red Cross to visit them.

Letters, such as the one under reply, will not succeed in their transparent and contemptible objective of diverting public opinion from the callous crimes of the Syrian authorities and the cynical disregard displayed by them for international law and accepted standards of civilized society.

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

(Signed) Jacob DORON
Acting Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations