

war in Syria. Agence France Presse reported this fact, based on sources close to the Israeli Foreign Minister. That agency said that the moral and physical conditions of the Israeli prisoners of war were fully satisfactory.

The *International Herald Tribune* reported on 3 June 1974, after the release of the wounded Israeli prisoners of war, a statement by Dr. Mordechai Shani, an Israeli physician, that apart from one prisoner, the prisoners of war are in good health, and it seems the medical treatment they received was "reasonably good".

\*  
\* \*

By exposing these facts before the correspondents of the world press and news agencies for informing world public opinion of the crimes perpetrated by Israel, we would like to point out that Israel not only violated the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention and refused to apply those of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian

Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,<sup>8</sup> but it went to the extent of directing its soldiers to commit genocide. The Israeli newspaper, *Haolam Haze*, in its issue No. 1915, of 15 May 1974, published an article proving that the Israeli Military Rabbinate of the Central Region Command distributed a pamphlet inviting the Israeli armed forces to kill Arab civilians during war, or during hot pursuits or invasion. The article describes the pamphlet as an official military pamphlet. This is proven by the fact that the expression "Central Region—General Una Afran" was printed on the pamphlet.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic will take all the necessary measures to bring these facts to the attention of the competent international organizations and humanitarian bodies. It will, in due time, invite some neutral international bodies to send medical teams for examining the conditions of our returning prisoners of war, and for acquainting themselves with the torture and maltreatment our prisoners of war were subjected to.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 287.

#### DOCUMENT S/11534\*

##### Letter dated 9 October 1974 from the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]  
[9 October 1974]

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the following.

On 3 October 1974, approximately at 0830 hours (local time), an Israeli bulldozer crossed the Alpha Line, at approximate map reference 2299-2778 and started opening a road in the buffer zone. This Israeli act took place under the protection of two armoured Israeli personnel carriers which also crossed the Line in the same area.

It is clear that this Israeli violation is added to a long series of flagrant violations of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces signed in Geneva on 31 May 1974 [S/11302/Add.1, annex I] which were the subject of my letters of 5 August [S/11414], 15 August [S/11451], 16 August [S/11454], 3 September 1974 [S/11482 and S/11483] and 11 September 1974 [S/11503].

However, the head of the Syrian party to the Mixed Armistice Commission presented on 5 October to the Vice Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force a complaint (No. 3699) concerning the aforementioned violation and placed a strong protest, requesting necessary measures to be taken to stop the repetition of such violations.

Your efforts to put an end to these Israeli acts of provocation and violations, which certainly stand as a barrier towards improving the general situation in the area, will be highly appreciated.

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

(Signed) Haissam KELANI  
Permanent Representative  
of the Syrian Arab Republic  
to the United Nations

\* Originally circulated under the symbol A/9798-S/11534.

#### DOCUMENT S/11535\*

##### Letter dated 9 October 1974 from the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]  
[9 October 1974]

On instructions from my Government, and further to my letters to you dated 30 July and 12 September

1974, concerning the criminal act committed by Israeli forces in destroying the city of Quneitra before withdrawing [S/11396 and S/11506], I have the honour to inform you of the following.

\* Originally circulated under the symbol A/9799-S/11535.

1. Before the Israeli forces withdrew from the city of Quneitra in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces, signed by the Israeli at Geneva on 31 May 1974, they destroyed all the buildings, houses, commercial undertakings and public services in the city. This destruction was not the result of military operations but was carried out with the use of explosives and bulldozers. The ruins of the city still testify to the crime that was committed there; those who witnessed the tragedy and the sacrifice in the city are still alive, and this act of barbarism has been confirmed in several eyewitness reports.

2. Israeli forces also completely destroyed the great mosque and then attacked other mosques on which they inflicted substantial damage. They removed prayer mats and furniture they found there and set fire to sacred books. They also completely destroyed the Protestant church, and destroyed and plundered the two other churches in the city. They took sacred objects from other churches, too: icons, paintings, marble statues and chandeliers.

3. Even the cemeteries in the city were not spared in this criminal outrage. These holy places were profaned, and all valuable objects found there which Christians traditionally leave on the bodies of the dead (teeth made of precious metal, rings, bracelets, and so forth) were stolen. The city hospital was also ransacked and pillaged to such an extent that it was completely razed and became a firing range.

4. The Israelis' hatred did not stop there but was also unleashed against historical monuments in the city. The Israeli forces destroyed them and stole from them in violation of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, done at The Hague on 14 May 1954.

5. These criminal acts were committed with complete disregard for the spirit of the negotiations on the disengagement of forces which were then in their final stage; they are thus clear proof of Israel's bad faith. Article 53 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949<sup>9</sup> states that any destruction by the occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or co-operative organizations is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations. Article 33 of the same Convention also prohibits all acts such as pillage and reprisals against protected persons and their property.

6. The acts of devastation and destruction committed by Israeli forces in the city of Quneitra fall under the provisions of the charter of the International Military Tribunal of Nuremberg,<sup>10</sup> article 6, paragraph (b) of which defines as war crimes the destruction of cities or villages not justified by military necessity. The General Assembly confirmed the charter of the Tribunal in its resolution 95 (I) of 11 December 1946.

7. In this connexion it should be noted that the material losses suffered by the city of Quneitra as a result of these criminal acts, according to preliminary estimates, amount to over \$500 million.

8. It should be added that several villages in the Golan region have been subjected to similar destruction and have been completely obliterated, any remains being transported to distant areas so that there is nothing to suggest that a people, a culture, or a civilization ever existed there.

9. The Syrian Arab Republic,

(a) Considering that the commission of such an odious crime should not go unpunished when it has been exposed to world public opinion, and in accordance with the provisions of article 146 of the fourth Geneva Convention,<sup>9</sup> which provides that the contracting parties undertake to enact any legislation necessary to provide effective penal sanctions for persons committing, or ordering to be committed, any of the grave breaches of that Convention, and that each contracting party shall be under the obligation to search for persons alleged to have committed, or to have ordered to be committed, such grave breaches,

(b) Recalling article 147 of that Convention which lists the above-mentioned grave breaches, including the destruction and appropriation of property not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly,

(c) Recalling article 148 of the Convention which provides that no contracting party shall be allowed to absolve itself or any other contracting party of any liability incurred by itself or by another contracting party in respect of breaches referred to in article 147,

Has addressed to the International Committee of the Red Cross a letter containing the following requests:

(i) Israel is requested to bring to trial the persons who committed, or ordered to be committed, the criminal destruction of the city of Quneitra, in accordance with the provisions of articles 146 and 147 of the above-mentioned Convention. In the event that the destruction of Arab cities and villages in the occupied territories is an integral part of Israel's fundamental policy, as is clearly indicated by the destruction of cities and villages in the Golan region, by the establishment on their ruins of Israeli settlements, and in the annual reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic requests that the guilty persons should be tried in a neutral country. Israel is also requested to report to the International Committee of the Red Cross on what measures it has taken to comply with this request.

(ii) The Israeli occupying authorities are requested to carry out an investigation of the acts of pillage and plunder committed by the Israeli forces at Quneitra and to return through the Red Cross all that was unlawfully removed.

(iii) The International Committee of the Red Cross is requested to publicize the true facts about the destruction by Israel of the city of Quneitra and about the difficulties and suffering imposed on the inhabitants of that city as a result of their inability to return home. The former representative of the International Red Cross at Damascus is aware of what happened at Quneitra and of how the city was destroyed, and the new representative of the Red Cross is able to see for himself the tragedy being experienced by the inhabitants of Quneitra, the state of the city and how it was destroyed.

(iv) The International Committee of the Red Cross is requested to take, with the Israeli authorities, all necessary measures to prevent the repetition of such

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 82, p. 279.

taking due account of the fact that this policy of annihilation, destruction and alienation has been followed not only in respect of Quneitra but also in respect of very many Syrian villages and settlements since 1967. Even today Israel is still obliterating all vestiges of Arab civilization and replacing them with military bases and colonies reserved exclusively for Jews.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Haissam KELANI  
 Permanent Representative  
 of the Syrian Arab Republic  
 to the United Nations

DOCUMENT S/11536

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Emergency Force for the period from 2 April to 12 October 1974

[Original: English]  
 [12 October 1974]

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>
SECTION	1
COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE	
Composition and command	2-9
Deployment	10-15
Rotation	16
ACCOMMODATIONS AND LOGISTICS	
Accommodations	17-18
Logistic support	19-22
ACTIVITIES OF THE FORCE	
Functions and guidelines	23-28
Observance of the cease-fire and implementation of the Disengagement Agreement	29-30
Negotiations and agreements	31-32
Disengagement in the Israel-Syria sector	33
HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS	
	34-37
FINANCIAL ASPECTS	38-40
RESERVATIONS	41-45

ANNEX

	<i>Page</i>
Showing UNEF deployment on 1 October 1974	33

INTRODUCTION

This report, which covers the functioning of the United Nations Emergency Force for the period from April to 12 October 1974, presents a summary of developments relating to UNEF on which information was submitted to the Security Council in my press reports on the Force [S/11248/Add.1-7] as well as an account of events which have taken place since the last of those progress reports dated 30 August 1974. The purpose of the report is to provide the Council with a comprehensive picture of the activities of UNEF in pursuance of the mandate laid down by the Security Council in its resolutions 340 (1973) and 341 (1973) of 25 and 27 October 1973 and extended by resolution 346 (1974) of 8 April 1974.

I. COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

A. COMPOSITION AND COMMAND

2. As of 12 October 1974, the strength of the Force, including UNEF headquarters and the staff of the UNEF offices in Rabah and Suez, was as follows:

Austria	3
Canada	862
Finland	468
Ghana	500
Indonesia	402
Panama	442
Poland	921
Senegal	410
Sweden	482
Ireland (rear party)	1
TOTAL	<u>4,491</u>

3. The UNEF air component has been reduced to two Buffalo aircraft as a result of the air crash of 9 August (see para. 28 below). Negotiations are under way with the Canadian authorities with a view to obtaining a third aircraft. In addition, the Fokker Friendship aircraft placed at the disposal of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine (UNTSO) by the Government of Switzerland is made available to UNEF as occasion requires.

4. During the past six months, Lieutenant-General Ensio Siilasvuo has continued to be the Commander of UNEF.

5. By letters of 18 and 21 May 1974, the Permanent Representative of Ireland informed me that his Government had decided with great regret to withdraw its contingent. The Council having been duly informed, the main body was repatriated by air from Tel Aviv on 22 May 1974. The Irish Government stated that it would be happy, when the present need had passed, to send again an Irish contingent to the Middle East, should the United Nations feel this desirable. For its part, the Irish Government would wish to be regarded as continuing its commitment to UNEF even if, for the present, it was not in a position to supply troops [S/11248/Add.3 and 4].

6. The Nepalese contingent relieved the Irish of their area of responsibility in the zone of disengagement.

7. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 350 (1974) on 31 May 1974, and approval