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LETTER DATED 21 JUNE 1971 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions of my Government and with reference to the letter addressed to you on 17 June 1971 (A/8325, S/10228) in reply to my letter of 15 June 1971 (A/8324, S/10224), I have the honour to state the following:

1. To dare call Zionism a "liberation movement" is the greatest insult that could be levelled against any liberation movement anywhere in the world and against the intelligence of the international community.

From its very inception to this day, Zionism has been a colonial movement. The first instrument created by the World Zionist Organization was named "The Jewish Colonial Trust Limited", formed by the Second Zionist Congress in 1898.

The American Jewish Yearbook of 1970 defines the Jewish Agency as "recognized by the State of Israel as the authorized agency to work in Israel for the development and colonization, the absorption and settlement of immigrants, and the co-ordination of activities of Jewish institutions and associations operating in these fields".

That Israel is a colonial settler régime bent on the destitution of the original inhabitants of the land was recognized by General Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Minister of War. In a speech rebroadcast by the Israeli radio on the eve of the June 1967 war of aggression, Dayan uttered the following words,

"Let us not today fling accusations at the murderers. Who are we that we should argue against their hatred?"

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"For eight years now, they sit in their refugee camps in Gaza, and before their very eyes, we turn into our homestead the land and the villages in which they and their forefathers have lived.

"... We are a generation of settlers, and without the steel helmet and the cannon we cannot plant a tree and build a house."

Uri Avnery "Israel Without Zionists"
New York, Macmillan: 1968, p. 134

When the Zionist themselves openly and officially recognize the colonial nature of their movement, one can easily dismiss Mr. Tekoah's false arguments.

2. The Israeli Representative calls "absurd" any reference to United Nations resolutions that do not accommodate Israeli lawlessness on the ground that these resolutions do not command the support of the "majority", and because Israel has "one single vote". The legal absurdity of such a remark is only matched by its unfounded assumptions.

The Israeli Representative is to be reminded that once a draft resolution is adopted by the required majority, it becomes a resolution that is to be heeded. If Israeli distortions of the law of the Charter were to be followed, the first party to be affected would be Israel itself since resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 is far from commanding the support of the "Peoples of the United Nations".

Yet, Israel defiantly rejects and violates even those resolutions that command overwhelming or unanimous support. It suffices to recall only the few following instances:

(a) Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 - unanimously adopted - which inter alia calls upon Israel to facilitate the return of the new refugees and to ensure the safety, welfare and the security of the inhabitants of the occupied territories;

(b) General Assembly resolutions 2253 (ES-V) and 2254 (ES-V) of 4 and 14 July 1967 declaring the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem "invalid" and calling upon Israel to rescind all measures already taken and "desist forthwith from taking any action which would alter the status of Jerusalem";

(c) Security Council resolution 267 (1969), unanimously adopted on 3 July 1969, the relevant paragraphs of which provide:

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"The Security Council,

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"1. Reaffirms its resolution 252 (1968);

"2. Deplores the failure of Israel to show any regard for the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council mentioned above;

"3. Censures in the strongest terms all measures taken to change the status of the City of Jerusalem;

"4. Confirms that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel which purport to alter the status of Jerusalem, including expropriation of land and properties thereon, are invalid and cannot change that status;"

(d) General Assembly resolution 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 - adopted by 100 votes in favour, with only Israel voting against - calling upon the Government of Israel to take effective and immediate steps for the return without delay of the new refugees.

The Israeli "respect" for United Nations resolutions was best illustrated on two occasions. The first one was when the Foreign Minister of Israel said: "If the General Assembly were to vote 121 votes to 1 in favour of Israel returning to the armistice lines, Israel would refuse to comply with that decision." (The New York Times, 19 June 1967, p. 8). The second occasion was when the Israeli Representative to the United Nations, commenting on Security Council resolution 262 (1968) condemning Israel for its attack on the International Airport of Beirut, said: "The resolution reflects moral, political and juridical bankruptcy of the Security Council in respect of the Middle East situation." (S/PV.1462, p. 51).

3. Quoting from the statement of a body of clergymen does not constitute an answer to the still standing resolutions on Jerusalem, the last of which was the above-mentioned Security Council resolution 267 (1969), adopted unanimously on 3 July 1969.

4. Loyal to the tradition followed by all colonialist and occupiers, the Israeli Representative attempted - without much success - to glorify the Israeli

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occupation. The article he chose to quote from illustrates two symptoms inherent in colonial occupation: the impoverishment of those who cannot compete with the occupier and an extensive exploitation of the working class.

Dr. Arthur Hertzberg, a leading Zionist American, described poverty and exploitation in Israel itself in these words:

"We American Jews are being told that Israel is a country under siege, and so it is, and so we want to help keep it strong enough to survive.

"But during the four years from 1967 when the country was under siege, the standard of living of the middle class has doubled; the number of cars on the roads of the country has doubled, and so has the rate of travel abroad by prosperous Israelis.

"It seems the country is only under siege when it comes to the needs of the 20 per cent of population who are below the poverty line."

(The New York Times
15 June 1971, p. 6)

I shall be grateful if this letter is circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
