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LETTER DATED 23 JUNE 1971 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 on 21 June 1971 by the Permanent Representative of Syria (A/8326, S/10232).

Note is taken of the fact that the Syrian representative has turned his attention from raising false allegations regarding the situation of Arab inhabitants in Israeli-controlled territories to certain social questions which confront the Jewish population of Israel. Were it not for the warfare pursued against Israel by the Arab States, including Syria, since 1948, the resources available to the Government of Israel to cope with those questions would have been considerably greater and the Syrian Government itself would have been able to begin dealing with the problems of poverty and backwardness in Syria.

The Syrian letter persists in the attempt to employ one-sided resolutions of United Nations organs as instruments of belligerency against Israel. These texts are products of debates and proposals initiated or inspired by Arab States as a means of evading the obligation and the need to seek settlement of the Middle East conflict by negotiation and agreement with Israel. Their one-sided character deprives such resolutions of any effect in efforts to advance solutions of problems that have arisen out of the situation in the area. There is growing realization that the Israel-Arab conflict can be resolved solely by agreement between the parties concerned and that sterile and acrimonious debates in United Nations organs resulting in resolutions which take into account the stand of only one of the parties cannot make any constructive contribution whatever to the situation. Syria continues to use these texts because, contrary to its

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obligations under the United Nations Charter, it refuses to make peace with Israel.

Note is taken also of the fact that the Syrian letter carries on with the slanderous attack against Zionism, the Jewish people's national liberation movement, by resorting this time to brazen distortions of the meaning of words in the English language. It is perhaps not surprising that a State which oppresses its Jewish inhabitants and denies them their human rights as individuals should negate also the collective right of the Jewish people to independent existence. An international conflict cannot be settled unless the parties to it are at the very least imbued with respect for each other's national values. The representative of Syria has consistently besmirched and denied the national values of the Jewish people. In these circumstances no useful purpose can be served by pursuing the present exchange of views with him.

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

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
