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LETTER DATED 30 JANUARY 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, on instructions of my Government, to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Syria on 23 January 1970 (A/7942, S/9614).

Probably emboldened by Syria's admission to membership in the Security Council despite its Government's repudiation of basic Charter principles and Council resolutions, the Syrian representative apparently assumes that members of the Security Council would now accept the usual Syrian distortions whatever their magnitude.

The Syrian letter alleges ill-treatment of two Syrian pilots taken prisoner by Israel on 12 August 1968. In fact, the conditions of detention of the two pilots were in full accord with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross were free, whenever they desired, to visit the Syrian pilots. Their first visit took place on 20 August 1968, several days after the imprisonment. After each visit, the representatives of the Red Cross submitted reports, all of which confirm the satisfactory conditions of detention. Copies of these reports are also in the possession of the Syrian Government. It will be recalled that the pilots held long conversations with Red Cross representatives, without any witnesses. In none of these conversations did the pilots voice any of the complaints contained in the Syrian letter.

* Also issued under the symbol A/7946.

The barbaric treatment to which Syrian authorities have, throughout the years, subjected Israeli prisoners is a matter of record and is widely known. This record cannot be whitewashed by baseless attempts to attribute Syrian methods to other Member States.

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
