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LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Acting upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to the letter of the representative of Israel, (document S/9094, A/7528) of 19 March 1969, on what he termed "entry and stationing of Iraqi armed forces in Syria", which he qualified as aggravating the situation in the area, I have the honour to state the following.

1. Ever since its premeditated war of aggression against the Arab countries in June 1967, and its occupation of territories belonging to three Arab States, Israel flagrantly pursues a policy of oppression and eviction of Arab residents of the occupied territories, in violation of the United Nations Charter and of all international obligations. Furthermore its regular armed forces continue their premeditated aggressive attacks against Arab countries, irrespective of whether the objectives are civilian or military.
2. Israeli leaders do not conceal their aggressive designs arrogantly stating their determination to maintain their occupation and annexation of Arab territories, while others among them still call for further occupation of Arab lands. Indeed to mention only the latest, Mrs. Golda Meir, in her first statement as the new Israeli Prime Minister, spoke of "such natural borders of Israel as the Golan Heights, captured from Syria, and Sharm el-sheik, the former Egyptian outpost." (The New York Times, 19 March 1969.) On 13 March, Major General David Elazar, Commander of the so-called "northern section" i.e. the Syrian-occupied Golan Heights, told a Keren Hayesod Jewish appeal meeting, "the future of the occupied Golan Heights would be determined by the presence of Jewish settlement rather than by presence of Israeli soldiers in the region," adding that "only the establishment of settlements would give the area a Jewish identity". (JTA, Daily News Bulletin, 14 March 1969.) To Menachim Begin, the present minister without portfolio, and leader of the Herut Party: "Both sides of the Jordan form a historical and a geographical unit."

3. The Arab Governments have submitted to His Excellency, the Secretary-General, U Thant, as well as to the President of the Security Council, letters containing Israeli official statements proving decisively that Israel intends to commit new aggressive acts against the Arab States.

4. The Arab States are exercising their legitimate right of self-defence against the Israeli imminent danger threatening the very existence of their peoples and their future. This right of self-defence is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and recognized by international law. Consequently, suffering as they are from a continued, ruthless occupation and the threat of further Israeli expansion, they are justified in co-ordinating their own defence, in accordance with the Arab common defence pact.

5. The Syrian Government holds Israel responsible for any aggressive act it may undertake against Syrian territory and considers itself duty-bound to warn against such imminent danger. This is more so since the world by now has become used to Israeli allegations and falsifications on the international level, as a prelude for aggression against the Arabs.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council, and avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency etc.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH,
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative