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LETTER DATED 18 APRIL 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA  
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Acting on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the continuation by Israel of consolidating its grip on the Arab-occupied territories by following a systematic policy of colonization.

The latest series of acts carried out by Israel are as follows:

1. Not having been satisfied with the wanton destruction of at least thirty villages in the Golan Heights, looting of private property, the expulsion of 115,000 from the Syrian-occupied territory including 17,000 old refugees registered with UNRWA as reported by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (document A/6797 and S/8158), it has been forcing a few hundred remaining Syrians to leave their villages. This barbaric action is being continued up till this very same day. The few remnants of the civilian population are being forced to leave under duress, torture and threats. Before their eviction they are compelled to sign declarations that they are leaving of their own free will. They are then carried by Israeli trucks and thrown outside the occupied areas. The names of all these persons evicted from the time of Israeli occupation up till the present and the dates of their expulsion are available to us and we would be ready to present them to Your Excellency, to the Council and the Secretary-General at any time.

2. As further measures to strengthen their grip on the occupied territory, the Israeli forces of occupation are continuing to establish their Nahal colonies - a combination of soldier-farmers settlements - with obvious military and expansionist purposes. The seventh such Nahal settlement has already been set up in the cease-fire area. Electricity and water pipes have already been installed there to service these new military-civilian establishments. On 12 April the Israeli Minister of Labour, Igal Allon, speaking at a meeting of his party, asked

\* Reissued for technical reasons.

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that "The security on the cease-fire lines should be strengthened by establishing more and more of the Nahal colonies" (Le Monde, 12 April 1968, p. 5, column 2).

All this is being done in utter violation of the Security Council resolution of 14 June 1967 (237 (1967)) which specifically calls upon the Government of Israel "to ensure the safety, welfare and security of the inhabitants of the areas where military operations have taken place and to facilitate the return of those inhabitants who have fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities". This resolution, as is well known, has been affirmed by resolution 2252 (ES-V) adopted on 4 July 1967 during the fifth emergency special session of the General Assembly.

Thus it is crystal clear that Israel continues its policy of cynicism, complete disregard of the relevant United Nations and Security Council resolutions, the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 to which Israel is a party, and all other laws of civilized international conduct.

These acts of lawlessness, enslavement, and insolence could lead only to further aggravation of an already explosive situation for which the nazi-like Israeli behaviour is and will be responsible.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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