



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/8742\*  
10 August 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 AUGUST 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Acting upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to confirm the contents of my letter to you dated 25 July 1968 (A/7142, S/8689).

The reply of the Israeli representative, dated 1 August 1968, (A/7159, S/8703), completely and purposely ignores the issues raised - let aside its vulgarity. The following remarks are, therefore, pertinent to confirm the facts:

1. (a) My letter of 25 July 1968, contained clear, unequivocal statements by Israeli Cabinet members and authorities about the annexation of the Syrian and other Arab occupied territories and the establishment there of thirty-five new Jewish settlements (Nahal).

(b) A series of up till now unceasing atrocities committed against the civilian Arab population, including the continued eviction from all the Arab occupied territories of new and old refugees, whose number has reached now almost half a million. The Israeli representative proved utterly unable to deny either the statements of his leaders, or the inhuman nazi treatment and forcible eviction of the Arab civilian population.

2. More evidence is available to confirm the sinister plans of annexation of the Syrian occupied territory. The Jerusalem Post, in its issue of 15 July 1968, published the following:

"GOLAN SLATED AS CATTLE LAND

"Plans to graze massive herds of cattle on the Golan Heights were announced by the Jewish Agency Settlement Department yesterday. The plans envisage 15,000 head of cattle on 600,000 dunams of natural pasture.

\* Also issued under the symbol A/7173.

"Each of the settlements on the Heights will be allocated 30,000 dunams for raising cattle, while land will also be made available for settlements within the old border.

"The Department's calculations show that Golan meat production could make it possible to cut imports by a quarter. However, the project entails large-scale investment in stock and fencing, the Department communique pointed out." (My italics)

The Jewish Agency referred to above is defined by the authoritative American Jewish Year Book as follows:

"JEWISH AGENCY - AMERICAN SECTION (1929).  
515 Park Ave., N.Y.C., 10022. Pres. Nahum Goldman; Exec. Dir. Isadore Hamlin. Represents in the United States the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Jerusalem, which is recognized by the State of Israel as the authorized agency to work in Israel for development and colonization, the absorption and settlement of immigrants and the co-ordination of activities of Jewish institutions and associations operating in these fields." (Year 1967, Vol. 68, p. 496) (My italics)

The preceding is enough to prove that Syria and the Arab countries are faced now - in this third decade of the United Nations and era of decolonization - with a climax of the colonial onslaught, similarly suffered by other parts of Africa and Asia and which in itself is part and parcel of the Western economic imperial expansion that started over a century ago. It is also obvious, from the definition of the Jewish Agency, that this colonial onslaught on the Arabs - as embodied in the World Zionist movement and Israel - has its seat in the heart of the United States.

3. The situation of the civilian population in the Arab occupied territories is covered by the two humanitarian resolutions. The Israeli representative, in his reply of 1 August 1968, stated:

"The Syrian letter cannot draw the curtain on Syria's refusal to allow a representative of the Secretary-General to investigate the tragic situation of Jews in Syria, nor can it conceal Syria's continued rejection of all United Nations efforts toward peace in the Middle East."

Luckily, Sir, your report (A/7149, S/8699) of 31 July 1968 has already been circulated. Anybody who reads this important and historic document can readily realize the responsibility of the party that is putting conditions and obstacles to prevent the dispatch of the second mission to "the areas where military

operations have taken place", in implementation of the humanitarian resolutions. That party is Israel. It is doing so only to cover up for its crimes and to hide from world public opinion its hideous nazi atrocities and bestiality. It is, therefore, relevant to quote from your letter to the Israeli representative of 15 July 1968, wherein you state:

"... in the light of the reply itself and your oral discussion of it, I see no alternative but to conclude that the answer to my query of 27 June is affirmative, that is to say that the points which had been raised by you are to be taken as conditions which must be met if the proposed mission is to be able to proceed and to have the necessary access to the areas with which it is concerned. Should this be an incorrect conclusion, I am sure that you will promptly advise me to that effect in order that the mission may be quickly dispatched." (A/7149, S/8699 of 31 July 1968, p. 15) (My italics)

The brief legal analysis attached to your letter, paragraph 1, states the following:

"Under a strictly legal interpretation of Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and General Assembly resolution 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 it is clear that they do not apply to minorities in the territories of even those States most directly concerned. Operative paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 237 (1967) calls upon Israel to ensure the safety, welfare and security of the inhabitants of the areas where military operations have taken place. This paragraph applies without question to the area occupied by Israel since June 1967. Strictly interpreted, it would not, however, apply to Arabs in, for example, Nazareth or Haifa, and of course could not apply to Jewish persons in Arab States since paragraph 1 is addressed solely to Israel." (A/7149, S/8699, of 31 July 1968, p. 17) (My italics)

I need not comment any further. The previous quotations are enough to silence the Israeli representative from indulging into further falsehoods. It is to be noted, nevertheless, that Mr. Tekoah's reply is dated 1 August and that the date of your reply to him is dated 15 July.

If Israel is really interested in the peace of the area, it should have proceeded with the implementation of the two humanitarian resolutions since their adoption over a year ago. But judging by Israel's behaviour for the last twenty-one years in refusing to implement twenty-one resolutions affirming the right of return of the Arab refugees to their homeland, a problem which continues to be the main cause of the complete absence of peace in the area, the prospects

/...

for the future remain as gloomy as the past. Israel alone is responsible for the perpetuation of this tragic situation and for the resulting continuous threat to world peace and order.

4. Concerning the conditions of the Arab minority under Israeli military rule, and the fact that they constitute third-class citizens, the Israeli representative found no other words but to say cynically that these are falsehoods. However, on 28 July 1968, The New York Times published an article by Terence Smith from Jerusalem, under the title: "Arabs of Israel: a People in Search of an Identity". Following are parts of this article about the lamentable situation of the Arab minority in Israel:

"RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED

"With the consent of the Minister of Defence, the military commanders in the Arab areas could limit individual movements, impose restrictions on employment and business, issue deportation orders, search and seize at will, and detain a person up to one year if it was deemed necessary to maintain security.

"Ironically, these regulations were originally set up by the British mandate authorities in Palestine to curb Jewish terrorism.

"A majority of Israeli Arabs describe themselves as second-class citizens. In addition to the military governments and travel restrictions, they cite as discriminatory the laws regarding expropriation of land and citizenship.

"Under the provisions of the so-called Law of the Return, any Jew coming to Israel may claim immediate citizenship simply by declaring his intention to settle. Non-Jews must undergo a waiting period.

"The land-acquisition law, passed soon after the 1948 war, specified that the land of any person who fled his village and was absent when the Israeli forces entered the area would automatically be turned over to the custodian of absentee property.

"This applied even in cases where the landowners merely went elsewhere in Israel during the fighting. When they returned to their homes, they found their property taken over by the custodian.

"All told, about 1.6 million acres of Arab land was taken under this law, according to figures compiled by United Nations investigators.

"Most of this land was subsequently turned over for Jewish settlement. Of 570 new Jewish settlements established between 1948 and 1953, 350 are on former Arab property.

"'The compensation is never adequate', said one Israeli Arab whose family lost substantial property in the Jerusalem area. 'They offer you a fraction of what the land is worth, and you take that, or you get nothing.'"

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

(Signed) George J. TOMEH  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

-----