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LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Acting upon instructions from my Government, and in confirmation of my letter to you of 10 August 1968 (A/7173, S/8742), I have the honour to bring to your attention the following:

On 14 August 1968, The New York Times published a full page article entitled: "Israel Firmly Settled on Syrian Heights", by Terence Smith.

Although the article in its entirety is important, yet for the sake of brevity, the following paragraphs are all too revealing:

"El Quneitra, Israeli-Occupied Syria - If anyone harbours doubts about Israel's plans for the Golan Heights, those doubts can be dispelled by a drive through the rolling hills and prairie of the Syrian territory she occupies.

"Eight Israeli settlements have been established in the area in the fourteen months since it was captured in the final offensive of the six-day war in June 1967. Two more are under construction.

"Three of the settlements are operating restaurants, and one, Kibbutz Golan, on the edge of this deserted Arab city, is running the Golan Tourist Centre, complete with a hotel, youth hostel, restaurant and gasoline station.

"None of the settlers seem to regard what they are doing here as anything but permanent.

"'We have been here for more than a year', Yehuda Harel, the secretary of Kibbutz Golan, told a recent visitor. 'This is where we live. It is our home now.'

"Four of the settlements are occupied by Nahal, an organization of the Israeli Army in which boys and girls combine military training with farming. One of them is about to be converted into a civilian Kibbutz, or communal settlement, and taken over by a group of civilian settlers. All the other settlements are purely civilian operations that have been set up with the permission and support of the Government.

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"Several Israeli agencies have additional plans for the Golan Heights. The Jewish National Fund has announced that it will import 16,000 head of beef cattle and graze them on the plateau, and the National Parks Authority is developing a huge nature preserve around the source of the Baniyas River.

"Israeli archaeological teams have surveyed the area in preparation for excavations there next season, and an enterprising Kibbutz is developing a ski area on the captured slopes of 10,000-foot high Mount Hermon.

"They all give the impression of having come to stay."

1. The above article is another decisive proof to establish the deliberate lies of the Israeli representative when he repeated in his letter to you of 27 June 1968 (A/7115, S/8654):

"The Nahal corps... are military units of the Israel Defence Forces and their activities are designed to assist in ensuring the security of the area and in maintaining the cease-fire."

2. The Jewish National Fund referred to in the article is classified in the authoritative Jewish Year Book as one of the Zionist organizations operating in the United States of America and defined as follows:

"Jewish National Fund, Inc. - Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael (1910).
42 E. 69 St., N.Y.C., 10021. Raises funds to purchase, develop, and reclaim the land of Israel." (1967, vol. 68, p. 496)

Thus another American Zionist organization is co-operating with the Jewish Agency - the American counterpart of the Government of Israel in the United States - for colonization of the Arab lands, arrogantly and unashamedly declared to be so, by the approval of the United States Government, let alone its encouragement, actual support, and the billions of dollars poured from the United States to implement this colonization and the eviction by brutal force of Arab farmers and peasants.

3. The last part of the article speaks of excavations to be undertaken by Israeli archaeological teams in the Syrian-occupied sector. This act has already been protested in our letter to you of 7 July 1967 (A/6750, S/8040), as constituting a flagrant violation of "The Hague Convention and its Protocol for the protection of cultural property in the case of war" and equally protested to UNESCO. This was denied at the time by the Israeli representative in his letter of 14 July 1967 (A/6758, S/8058) as unfounded allegations. Once more the cheap lies so easily advanced by Israeli spokesmen are disclosed. The theft by Israeli

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authorities of Syrian cultural property - a part of the cultural heritage of mankind - is another reminder of Nazi war crimes of theft committed in the occupied countries of Europe during the Second World War.

4. If a further proof is needed for the hypocritical pleas by Israeli leaders about their intentions for peace with the Arabs, which are denied by their acts, deeds and statements, the following declaration by General Allon, which appeared in Le Monde on 8 August 1968, is such a proof:

"Israel will never give back the Golan Heights

"Jerusalem, 7 August (AP) - Israel will maintain its present frontiers with Jordan and Egypt until there is a peace settlement, but it will never give back the Golan Heights to Syria, the Deputy Prime Minister, General Yigal Allon stated on Wednesday. No peace settlement is expected 'in the foreseeable', he added, in a short speech to the 'Mizrahi' American women's organization.

"'Israel', he exclaimed, 'would return the Golan Heights to Syria only if it had to surrender completely to the Damascus Government.'

"The Deputy Prime Minister went on to explain the strategic importance to Israel of the Suez Canal and the river Jordan. The river provides natural protection, since 'it would require a considerable technical feat to cross it'. As for the canal, 'it constitutes a first-class anti-tank barrier', declared General Allon.

"(Last December, General Allon reaffirmed that the river Jordan should be proclaimed the frontier of 'Greater Israel'. - See Le Monde of 31 December)."

5. The Golan Heights are not only opened as an attraction for tourists to Israel, but also for official visitors. Thus The New York Times, in its issue of 17 July 1968, reported the following:

"Ball, in Tel Aviv, sees Dayan and other aides

"Tel Aviv, 16 July (AP) - George W. Ball, the United States delegate to the United Nations, made a helicopter tour of the Golan Heights, captured from Syria last year, and then met with Deputy Premier Yigal Allon at a co-operative farm, or kibbutz, beside the Sea of Galilee."

Ambassador Ball might have been told by the Israeli military conquerors that the capture of the strategic Golan Heights lays the way open to Damascus and Baghdad and ensures the continuous flow of Arab oil to Western Powers and the United States.

A similar visit was made by the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands. The following was reported by press agencies from The Hague on 25 July 1968:

"Luns embarrassed by visit to Israel

"Holland's Foreign Minister, Dr. Joseph Luns, back here today after an official four-day visit to Israel, said he had been taken against his will to former Syrian territory.

"He told reporters at Schiphol Airport that his Israeli guides had taken him off the scheduled route yesterday on his way to the Seden Nehenia Kibbutz, established by Dutchmen in the north of Israel.

"Dr. Luns said he had quickly left the area because, as Dutch Foreign Minister, he did not want to visit Israeli-occupied territory."

It is to be noted that a similar denunciation of the occupation of the Golan or other Arab-occupied territories was never heard of from Ambassador Ball following his brief visit to the Middle East. My Government views with the utmost gravity this scandalous tour of the Golan Heights by the United States Ambassador to the United Nations. To us it is but another proof of the unflinching support of the United States Government to perpetrate the Israeli nazi conquest of Arab lands and history will record that the United States Government stand was, and continues to be, the main cause of the tragedy of the Arab people, a stand which I am sure Ambassador Ball must have realized following his brief visit to the Middle East.

6. The article of The New York Times, quoted above, lays emphasis on the fact "that few non-Arab voices have been raised in protest as the Government has proceeded to integrate the Heights into Israel". Should this be true - and it is not - then it augurs very ominously for the future of the United Nations Organization and, in fact, for world peace. The callousness, conspiracy of silence and apathy that accompanied Mussolini's conquest of Ethiopia led to the collapse of the League of Nations. The condoning of the early onslaught of nazism on Austria and Czechoslovakia led to the Second World War.

Those who are condoning now the conquest of the Israeli nazi, Zionist onslaught and occupation of Arab territories, three times the size of Israel, are not doing less. They are guilty by association with Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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

(Signed) George J. TOMEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
