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LETTER DATED 18 JUNE 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Acting upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter circulated in document S/8550 of 19 April 1968, I have the honour to bring to your attention that the systematic policy of colonization followed by the Israeli authorities in the Syrian-Arab occupied territories is continuing with increased pace and intensity. The letter of the Israeli Representative (S/8558 of 24 April 1968) purporting to refute my charges was, in its very brevity and intentionally laconic references, an additional proof of the Israeli determination to go ahead with this policy of colonization regardless of international norms of conduct. Neither the debates in the Security Council nor the repeated letters of Israeli representatives have dispelled these truths. Indeed, the Secretary-General's report referred to by the Israeli representative (A/6797, S/8158) dated 15 September 1967 (and not 2 October 1967, as stated in his letter), not only refutes Israeli allegations, but confirms every accusation brought in our above-mentioned letter.

Beyond the 115,000 Arabs expelled from their homes after the Israeli blitzkrieg of 5 June 1967 (see paragraphs 39 and 41 of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 1 July 1966-30 June 1967), ^{1/} additional numbers of Syrians who had remained in the occupied territories are being pressured to leave,

* Also issued under the symbol A/7110.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/6713).

one group after another. The Israeli authorities' practice, definitely established by now, is to extract from them, under duress, declarations that they were leaving of their own free will. No representative of the International Red Cross is permitted by military Israeli invaders to witness these declarations or to supervise the operation of the allegedly voluntary exodus. This is what happened after my above-mentioned letter of 19 April. In fact, on 22 and 29 April and 7 and 14 May the Israelis went ahead in expelling more inhabitants, not sparing from their atrocities even frail septuagenarians who cannot constitute a threat against anybody. The cheap lies of the Israeli Representative are obvious.

The Israeli Representative thought it was sufficient to attribute to "Nahal" colonization a military character in order to confer on their activities some justification - whose falsity is obviously clear. Mention of their extensive settlement and cultivation schemes of colonization was completely omitted. The enclosed annex I with details about these colonies gives an illustration of the hypocrisy of this argument of military exclusiveness. Indeed, no illustration is needed after the clear formulation on the part of many Israeli leaders of such colonization aims and policies, as given in annex II to this letter. This same process of expelling Arab inhabitants and settling colonizers in their place is actually taking place in other Arab occupied territories as well.

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By their acts, the Israeli authorities are violating the Geneva Convention of 1949, Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and General Assembly resolution 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967. The Commission on Human Rights by its resolution 6 (XXIV) dated 27 February 1968 states the following:

"Affirms the right of all the inhabitants who have left since the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East to return and that the Government concerned should take the necessary measures in order to facilitate the return of those inhabitants to their own country without delay".

The resolution dated 7 May of the International Conference on Human Rights, 1968, held in Teheran, recalling all previous resolutions of the various organs of the United Nations and expressing its grave concern over these Israeli flagrant violations and denial of the human rights of the Arab people of the occupied

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territories, not only affirmed their inalienable rights to return to their homeland, but requested as well the General Assembly to appoint a committee to investigate the Israeli violations of these human rights. The Economic and Social Council by its resolution adopted on 31 May 1968 did not act different. But the Israeli authorities have completely ignored all these international bodies and their resolutions and have continued with impunity their ominous process of annexation, expansion and colonization.

Thus, the need for sending a special representative of the Secretary-General to proceed to this investigation, pursuant to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2252 (ES-V), becomes more imperative by the day. In an era of decolonization, the acts of the neo-colonialists cannot be condoned by the United Nations lest the principles it is advocating and the trends it is consolidating be allowed to be completely reversed.

Indeed, the gravity of this process of colonization must be assessed against a background of the Jerusalem Second Economic Conference concluded on 4 April 1968. Mr. Eshkol himself told the gathering, "Israel needs more people. Development brings immigration, and immigration brings development." Mr. David Sussman of South Africa, the youngest speaker, stated, "We hope to invest freely in this Promised Land - or rather Land of Promise" (The Israeli Digest, Vol. XI, No. 8, dated 18 April 1968).

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

Enc.: Annex I
Annex II

ANNEX I

List of settlements which have been established on Syrian Arab territory or within the Demilitarized Zone by the Israeli occupying forces since the aggression of 5 June 1967

Settlement's name	Location and former name	Co-ordinates (Palestine grid)	Date of the est. of the Israeli settlement	Agricultural land allotted to the settlement
1. Matin OZ	Al-Sarij (Demilitarized Zone)	208-268	14 August 1967	4,000 dunoms
2. Ramat-Habanias	Al-Maghaouix (Demilitarized Zone)	214-294	14 August 1967	2,000 dunoms
3. Kibbutz Kuneitra	Kuneitra (formerly the capital of the province whose inhabitants exceeded 60,000)	227-281	15 November 1967	1,000 dunoms
4. Nahal Golan	Jibin	222-244	28 December 1967	Total Jibin's arable land
5. Nahal Ain Ziwan	Ain Ziwan	227-279	29 January 1968	Total Ain Ziwan's arable land
6. Nahal Jeishour	Tal Al-Faras	232-263	10 March 1968	Total Ain Al- Moudaure's arable land
7. Alaal	Alaal	220-245		

ANNEX II

LE MONDE, 9-10 June 1968, page 11

[Original: French]

"Mr. Israel Galili, Minister of Information, stated in an interview published in the evening paper Maariv that, without a peace treaty, Israel would never be content with an exclusively military presence in the territories under its control.... 'We cannot accept the idea that the settlement of Jews in these territories should be prohibited', the Minister added, 'since we must be guided not only by considerations of military security but also by our Zionist ideals.'"

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY DAILY NEWS BULLETIN, 13 May 1968, page 2

"ESHKOL, IN GOLAN HEIGHTS TOUR, EXPRESSES HOPE FOR STRONG DEFENCE LINE

[Original: English]

"TEL AVIV, May 12 (JTA) - Premier Levi Eshkol expressed the hope, during a weekend tour of newly established defence settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, that the 'defence wall being built here will be both green and strong'.

"The Premier and a group which included officers of the northern command, and Agriculture Minister Haim Gvati, toured the settlements being developed by Nahal, the paramilitary agricultural organization. They were told that combined teams of the Agriculture Ministry and Defence units were carrying out weather, soil and water studies on the Heights."

MISSION SURVIVAL edited by Ruth Bondy, Ohad Zmora and Raphael Bashan, New York, 1968, pages 353-354

[Original: English]

"Speaking about a border, there is one, actually, between Syria and Israel. I am not referring to the 'International Border', which is in reality a demarcation line between the French Mandate and the British Mandate boundaries; this border never served the purpose, nor was it ever approved by the United Nations or accepted by the Arabs. On the other hand, the border which exists

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today between Syria and Israel is the cease-fire boundary line. This is a good, natural boundary for both States.... Without spelling it out as an agreement, we say to the Syrians that this boundary is acceptable to us as it is."

Benjamin Landau: Interview with Brig.-Gen. David Elazar; Bamahane, 1.8.67
