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LETTER DATED 3 OCTOBER 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SYRIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new unlawful and wanton Israel acts committed lately in Syrian-occupied territory.

As from the second half of August last, the Israel forces of occupation have undertaken the destruction of the houses of the village of Kafer-Elma as well as its water reservoir. This village is situated in the occupied area at approximately M.R. 2274-2463.

Moreover, the Israel forces of occupation have on 7 September started the systematic and complete destruction of another Syrian village of El-Hurriah at approximately M.R. 2295-2885, using huge bulldozers to better complete the task.

It is worth mentioning that the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization as well as the United Nations observers were able to witness for themselves the nefarious effects and consequences of the Israel acts of destruction in the two areas.

The senior Syrian delegate to the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, in a letter dated 12 September last, complained to the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission of these acts and requested that necessary measures be taken to prevent their repetition in the future.

In the view of my Government, these Israel acts not only constitute a serious and flagrant violation of the norms of international law, civilized behaviour and a grave contravention of United Nations resolutions as well as the 1949 Geneva Convention, but are a concrete manifestation of Israel policies aimed at obliterating and destroying Arab life and property in areas which fall within Israel's territorial ambitions. Their systematic destruction of Syrian villages

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in the Syrian-occupied territory is thus definitely linked to the Israel plans for moving new settlers and colonies into that area. This aspect of Israel expansionist policy toward Syria was referred to in paragraph 2 of my letter to Your Excellency dated 18 August 1967.

It would be worth mentioning in this respect what The New York Times had to say on 25 September about Israel's expansionist goals:

"Premier Levi Eshkol made the first announcement tonight of concrete plans for the settlement of territories seized from the Arabs in June.

"He said the Etzion bloc of settlements which were built on the west bank of the Jordan before the 1948 war, would be re-established in the near future.

"Earlier, it was announced that several members of Nahal, the army-sponsored youth organization, would begin work on the establishment of a settlement in the northern section of the captured Syrian Heights, near the village of Baniyas."

On 25 September the Syrian delegation had the opportunity of drawing the attention of the 1566th plenary meeting of the General Assembly to the motives of the new nazi policies of Israel toward Arab-occupied territories. In my present letter I would like to draw once more the attention of the United Nations to this dangerous aspect of Israel behaviour.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
