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LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the continued illegal activities carried out in violation of the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, international conventions and the norms of international law, by the Israel invaders on occupied Syrian territory - the whole of which in fact was occupied, as already proved, after the cease-fire had been decided upon and accepted.

1. In my letter of 7 July (S/8040), I had the honour to draw your attention to the excavations being made in Baniyas accompanied by looting of archaeological finds which constitute a cultural property and as such fall within the provisions of The Hague Convention. The excavations are now active and the looting ruthlessly continues.

2. In Baniyas, likewise, operations for the Zionist settlements are going on and, in the words of correspondent James Feron in his report on-the-spot appearing in The New York Times of 7 August 1967, these operations indicate Israel's "intention to retain this area". The confirmation of these intentions and acts came from no other than the Israel Labour and Foreign Ministers, who are with impunity urging even the establishment of paramilitary settlements in the occupied territories.

3. Terrorism against Syrian civilians has not ceased and the number of Syrian refugees from the occupied territory has attained - as of 4 July - 107,000. It is worth recalling in this regard that owing to the malnutrition and oppression to which these civilians have been subjected in their forcible flight, typhoid has spread amongst them causing numerous deaths, especially amongst children and the aged.

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While the report to follow the United Nations investigation of these flagrant violations and inhuman acts is anxiously awaited, I request, Sir, that this letter be circulated as a General Assembly and a Security Council document.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

