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LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the latest series of bellicose statements made by both the Israeli Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, the tenor of which amounts to no less than a declaration of intent to launch large-scale activities against Syria. Indeed, the kind of language used, the insistence on accusing Syria again and again of incidents for which she is not responsible, the pretexts created in order to justify further aggression, all point to one conclusion supported by the recent lessons of history: that another Suez is in the making.

As though to add to and to confirm these warlike statements, the Israeli representative, under the guise of replying to my letter of 28 April 1967 (S/7863), concludes by issuing the same threats against Syria and invoking the right of self-defence in order to camouflage the true aggressive intentions of his authorities. All the rest of the letter is an accumulation of distortions purporting to disguise the guilt of Israel, and its disregard of the Security Council resolutions. His hypocrisy goes so far as to speak of disputed land in the D/Zone, as though he is nursing the illusion that the world opinion will end by forgetting that it is the repeated Israeli aggression since 1949 in the D/Zone which has created the disputed portions and that these aggressions - confirmed by the consecutive reports of the UNTSO Chief of Staff - were in flagrant violation of the various Security Council resolutions.

This attitude of the Israeli authorities is neither incidental nor occasioned - as is claimed to be - by the so-called guerrilla activity on the demarcation line. It merely reflects the nature of the role - that of direct provocation - given to Israel to play within the context of a large conspiracy directed and financed by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States of America, promoted by the forces of reaction in the area, and aimed at the progressive régime of the Syrian

Arab Republic because of its determination to eliminate social injustice, imperialist interests and colonial exploitation.

In fact, the pretext of the so-called guerrilla activity is invoked each time an aggression is in the making. The fallacy of this pretext is obvious. Syria, as reiterated time and again, is not responsible for the activities of Arab Palestinians scattered from Gaza in the south to Lebanon in the north. Nor is it possible for her or incumbent upon her to control these activities, or to protect demarcation lines that extend all along the border of many, and not only one, States. One million Palestinians live in the eastern bank alone. Hundreds of thousands of other refugees live in other Arab States. It is ironical to ask Syria to control all these lines at a time when the Government of the United States of America is solemnly declaring its inability - in spite of an army of half a million Americans - to control the borders of South Viet-Nam. Furthermore, under what authority can Syria be expected to obstruct the endeavour of 2 million Palestinian Arabs to attain their right to self-determination granted to them in the Charter of the United Nations?

The sinister designs of the conspirators against Syria are made abundantly clear by the conclusions reached by the correspondent of The New York Times (see The New York Times, Saturday, 13 May, p. 1, col. 5). He reports from Tel Aviv quite bluntly that "Some Israeli leaders have decided that the use of force against Syria may be the only way to curtail increasing terrorism." But what the correspondent omits is that this decision to use force has not come about because of this or that incident that allegedly took place on the D/Zone - incidents that international organs alone are qualified to assess - but as a subservient implementation of the part given to Israel to play.

The conspirators entertain the illusion that the time is now ripe, with the American 6th Fleet in vicinity and with the reactionary feverish plots inside the area at their apex, to strike at the Syrian régime. They hope their blow would be, to quote the same correspondent of The New York Times, "of considerable strength but of short duration".

It is our duty to affirm here and now that such "blows" would under no circumstances be localized but will most certainly inflame the whole area. Likewise, it is our solemn duty to draw the urgent attention of the Security Council to this explosive situation because, after all, the maintenance of

international peace and security is its chief responsibility and almost its very raison d'être.

I should be grateful if the text of this letter could be circulated to the members of the Security Council as an official document.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
