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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI  
PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION  
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Letter dated 19 December 1988 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic on the subject of the latest Israeli practices in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 77.

(Signed) Ahmad Fathi AL-MASRI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

The latest Israeli practices in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan

Israel is still deliberately pursuing its comprehensive strategy of aggression and expansion with a view to Judaizing the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and emptying it of its Syrian Arab inhabitants. It is continuing to carry out its policy of annexation and settlement by applying legislation and exercising judicial and administrative authority in accordance with the Zionist expansionist settlement scheme.

The Israeli occupation authorities have amended the law governing the occupied Arab territories and the system of ownership with a view to justifying their confiscation and seizure operations in order that they may construct more settlements and expand them, in violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and General Assembly resolution ES-9/1 of 5 February 1982.

Israel is persisting in its disgraceful and deliberate breaches and violations of the rules of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the (fourth) Geneva Convention, relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966, as well as scorning the related resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the specialized agencies.

The Israeli occupation authorities are stepping up their economic blockade against Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. In this connection, the leader of the Farmers' Union of Israel, Shlomo Reisman, announced that the Union had decided to boycott the apple crop produced by Syrian Arab citizens.

The closure of the market to the apple crop - which is the principal crop and the basic source of income for Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Golan - and the refusal to allow them to market that crop represents a genuine economic disaster for those citizens. It will lead to a deterioration of their living conditions, with related health and social repercussions, to the spread of unemployment among them and to their transformation into a cheap source of labour for Israel. The problem is further complicated by the occupation authorities' refusal to allow Syrian Arab citizens to export their apple crop to any other part of the world. Previously, permission was granted to them to sell the apples in foreign markets, although they were not permitted to transfer or transport funds to the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.

These Israeli economic boycott measures against the produce of Syrian Arab citizens constitute a part of the overall Israeli colonial plan to eliminate the limited sources of agricultural income accruing to Syrian Arab citizens by applying an "iron fist" policy against them, subjecting them to domination by the authorities and thwarting their heroic resistance to the occupation. The policy is also designed to drive those citizens out of their territories and their homeland

in a search for ways to earn their living and thus to empty the occupied Golan of its original inhabitants, in violation of the (fourth) Geneva Convention of 1949.

Israel is deliberately striving to depress economic conditions in the occupied Golan and to eliminate agriculture, particularly the growing of apples, by establishing new settlements and expanding existing settlements through the confiscation of water and agricultural land belonging to Syrian Arab citizens and then planting the land with apple trees in order to compete with the apple crop produced by those citizens, forcing them to give up their farms and abandon the land.

The Israeli authorities' practices of aggressive exertion of pressure and their imposition of economic sanctions against Syrian Arab citizens constitute a flagrant violation of the (fourth) Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.

Security Council resolutions 497 (1981), 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) called upon Israel to apply the provisions of the (fourth) Geneva Convention of 1949 to Syrian Arab citizens in the Syrian Arab Golan and to carry out those provisions in full.

The Syrian Arab Republic urges the international community and the United Nations, and all its subordinate agencies and institutions, to exert the utmost pressure and to take decisive measures with a view to forcing Israel to cancel its boycott and lift the restrictions imposed on sales of the apple crop produced by Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan. Israel shall also be obliged to implement the related resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and to comply with its obligations under the provisions of article 1 of the (fourth) Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.

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