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Letter dated 1 November 1972 from the Permanent Representative of  
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic on 30 October 1972 (A/8865-S/10820) regarding Israel's air action on that day against terrorist bases in Syria.

Israel's action was part of its war on Arab terror warfare of wanton bloodshed and atrocities which is directed against innocent civilians and threatens to plunge mankind into barbarism.

In line with Syria's identification with and protection of the Arab murder squads conducting this terror warfare, the Syrian letter attempts to present their bases as civilian localities and the casualties among those squads as "innocent victims". All Arab news media, however, confirm that the targets struck by the Israeli forces were terrorist bases. Thus the Arab News Agency reported on 31 October 1972 that, at the base at Harana, 30 members of the murder organization El-Saiqa were killed and 60 wounded. In Duma, 7 were killed and 6 wounded. At Ain-Sakheb, according to the Arab News Agency, 3 members of El-Fatah were killed and 4 injured.

Unabashed falsification has been and remains the handmaiden of Arab propaganda. It is, however, an affront to States Members of the United Nations and to their representatives to keep on feeding them, as the Syrian Government does, with primitive falsehood obvious as such even to the listener and reader of Arab information media in the souks of Damascus.

This is equally true of the Syrian letter's repetition of the well known Arab propaganda distortion that Arab terror warfare is an outcome of the 1967 hostilities. By now the world is aware that this method of aggression has been used for decades by the Arab Governments in their war against Israel. Thus, for instance, the El-Fatah terrorist organization had been originally organized and put into action by the Syrian Government years before 1967.

A/8870  
S/10823  
English  
Page 2

The letter refers to a number of one-sided resolutions, almost all supported by a minority of Member States and reflecting the views of the Arab delegations and those who lend them blind support. The letter obviously does not mention the fundamental principles of international law, the United Nations Charter and resolutions which oblige Syria to reach peaceful agreement with Israel, which Syria openly rejects, and to refrain from organizing, sheltering and backing terror organizations that wage warfare against Israel.

Instead of keeping accounts of one-sided resolutions and distorting even such dubious texts, it would behoove Syria to begin abiding by its international obligations. Syria is duty-bound to eliminate the terrorist bases within its borders, to stop enrolling officers and soldiers of the Syrian army in the ranks of the terror organizations and to prohibit all activities by these groups on Syrian soil. As long as it fails to do that, its complaints concerning Israel's counter-war against terrorism must be regarded as mere sanctimoniousness.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations

