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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Twenty-seventh year

Letter dated 17 October 1972 from the Permanent Representative of
the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the following:

On Sunday, 15 October 1972, at 3.30 p.m. Damascus local time, an Israeli air squadron coming from the coast entered Syrian air space and attacked an area one kilometre east of the town of Hissiaf.

The Security Council has repeatedly condemned the acts of aggression perpetrated by Israel and has stated that it is prepared to censure any recurrence of such incidents. However, the latest meeting, held on 10 September, was prevented by the veto of a permanent member of the Council from adopting any resolution along those lines.

I would draw your attention to the official Israeli statements concerning the attack of 15 October 1972:

- (1) The Israeli military authorities state clearly that these raids are not in retaliation for any specific act, but are the first move in carrying out a sterner policy towards the enemy.
- (2) The gist of a statement by a member of the Israeli general staff was: "We will strike whenever a useful target presents itself."
- (3) The Prime Minister of Israel confirmed those intentions by stating on Thursday in a Tel-Aviv radio broadcast that Israel is determined to track down the enemy "wherever he may be".
- (4) According to The New York Times of 16 October, a high-ranking officer in the Israeli army admitted privately that raids such as that of 15 October 1972 were intended more to harass and intimidate the enemy than to knock out its

war-making capacity; such manoeuvres would, according to this officer, not perhaps provide a solution to the problem but would whittle it down to manageable proportions.

The Syrian Government registers a strong protest against this new act of aggression on its territory by Israel and condemns this barbarous and cowardly attack which can not find justification in any provocation. The bombing of innocent persons among the civilian population is posing a grave threat to peace and security in the Middle East.

The statements reported above, whether made by the Prime Minister or by Israeli officials, constitute defiance of the Charter of the United Nations and of the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

My Government draws your attention to the gravity of this situation, which shows clearly that it is Israel's deliberate policy to resort to force, violence, terrorism and officially organized war against a State Member of the United Nations.

My Government demands that such a policy be condemned by the international community and the civilized world.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of this letter as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haissam KELANI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations
