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LETTER DATED 6 DECEMBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the letter circulated by the head of the United States delegation and issued as document S/16197 of 4 December 1983, in which it was alleged that the United States air strikes against the positions of Syrian troops in Lebanon were carried out in self-defence, we wish to make clear the following:

1. Many threats were issued against Syria by senior officials of the United States Government, in particular the Secretary of Defense, and, following these threats, United States aircraft carried out reconnaissance with the aim of preparing for acts of aggression.
2. The most elementary military rules state that, if any foreign aircraft flies over the forces of another country, those forces must oppose them in order to defend their security and themselves.
3. The repeated United States threats give our aerial forces the right to monitor the movements of the United States forces in the Mediterranean and in Lebanon in self-defence, in accordance with United States logic. If they do so, will the United States Fleet not oppose them?
4. It is cause for astonishment and wonder that the United States delegation interprets its acts of aggression as self-defence.

This logic used by the United States is in conflict with the Charter of the United Nations and with the responsibilities of the United States Government as a super-Power and a permanent member of the Security Council.

I request you to have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dia-Allah EL-FATTAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative