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LETTER DATED 3 MAY 1954 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SYRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to request you to be good enough to transmit the present communication to the members of the Security Council.

On 26 April 1954, Israeli armed forces killed two Arab civilians and wounded a third one in the Shamalneh sector of the Demilitarized Zone.

The Syrian Delegation to the Mixed Armistice Commission immediately complained to the Chairman of that Commission and requested an urgent meeting to discuss the incident. The Chairman scheduled an urgent meeting, to be held on 30 April 1954.

The Syrian Delegation, which arrived at the meeting as arranged, was told by the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission that the Israeli Delegation had refused to attend the meeting on the ground that it did not wish to discuss matters pertaining to the Demilitarized Zone in the Mixed Armistice Commission. The Syrian Delegation insisted that the meeting should be held, even without the presence of the Israeli Delegation.

The Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission agreed to hold the meeting on condition that it would be confined to the adoption of the agenda and that the discussion of the substance should be postponed to a subsequent meeting. The meeting was held and the Syrian Delegation protested against the manner in which the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission had conducted the proceedings, which were contrary to the provisions of the General Armistice Agreement and the Commission's rules of procedure.

Accept, Excellency, etc.

/s/ Rafik Asha
Permanent Representative of Syria
to the United Nations.

54-13282

