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LETTER DATED 7 JUNE 1954 FROM THE PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA ADDRESSED TO THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Referring to my two letters of 10 May 1954 (S/3212) and 26 May 1954 (S/3218) I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the note addressed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Republic to the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine on 23 May 1954 in reply to his note of 19 May 1954; a copy has been forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his information.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the text of this note circulated to the members of the Security Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Rafik Asha

Permanent Representative  
of Syria to the  
United Nations

54-16435

SYRIAN REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Damascus, 23 May 1954

No. P 22(604/5/4909)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his note of 19 May 1954 to which it refers in the present note.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has noted the opinion expressed by the Chief of Staff on the interpretation of the various provisions of the Syrian-Israel General Armistice Agreement. Nevertheless, it maintains its previous position with regard to the competence of the Mixed Armistice Commission, due allowance being made for all the factors involved in the application of the Agreement considered as a whole. This position has been stated in the previous notes from both the Ministry and the Syrian delegation to the Mixed Armistice Commission.

The attitude adopted by the Chairman of the Commission at the meeting held on 30 April 1954 has already been the subject of various communications. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs maintains the point of view previously stated and would be glad if the Chief of Staff would give the Chairman such instructions as would enable him to discharge his task within the framework of the instruments defining his powers as an organ sui generis.

Without prejudice to the above observations and with due regard to the attitude of the Syrian Government towards the General Armistice Agreement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no objection to the convening of an early meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission at which the agenda adopted on 30 April 1954 would be considered.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honour, etc.

General VAGN BENNIKE,  
Chief of Staff,  
United Nations Truce Supervision  
Organization in Palestine  
JERUSALEM

