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LETTER DATED 19 JULY 1954 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

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

On 16 October 1953 a complaint was presented to the Security Council requesting that Israel be prohibited from diverting the waters of the river Jordan in the Demilitarized Zone in breach of the provisions of the Syria-Israel Armistice Agreement.

The Security Council, by its resolution of 27 October 1953, decided that the works started in the Demilitarized Zone should stop until a final decision had been reached by the Security Council on the substance of the Syrian complaint. As the resolution was carried unanimously, it was accepted by Syria. The Israel authorities were bound to abide by the terms of the resolution.

As is known, the Security Council has not hitherto taken a decision on the Syrian complaint, which remains on the Council's agenda. Consequently, the resolution of 27 October 1953 remains in force and should still be observed by the parties concerned. The Israel authorities, however, are attempting to resume the work which they had previously interrupted in the Demilitarized Zone. There is intense activity outside that Zone. There is reason to fear that work of consequence to the Demilitarized Zone will be completed even before the Security Council has had time to intervene and take the necessary measures. If such a situation should arise, the authority of the United Nations would have been openly defied.

Consequently, the attention of the members of the Security Council is drawn to the future developments of a situation which is already taking shape. Israel is speeding a project in a manner inconsistent with its obligations under the Syria-Israel Armistice Agreement. The Security Council could prevent a repetition of a flagrant breach of that Agreement.

In bringing these facts to the notice of the Security Council, I wish to state, on instructions from my Government, that my Government will not consider itself responsible for the consequences which could not but follow on resumption of the works in the Demilitarized Zone.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) Rafik ASHA
Permanent Representative of Syria
to the United Nations

