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LETTER DATED 2 SEPTEMBER 1952 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to draw the attention of the Security Council to recent pronouncements by Colonel Shishakly, Chief of Staff of the Syrian Army and Deputy Prime Minister, containing threats against the territorial integrity and independence of Israel.

On 15 August 1952 Colonel Shishakly made the following statement at an army officers parade in Aleppo which was widely published in his name throughout the Middle East. The following passage is quoted (in translation from the Arabic) from the official version of the special broadcast from Radio Damascus at 1600 hours on the same date:

"The Palestine calamity was due to the mistakes and the negligence of the politicians, their intrigues against each other and their ties with the imperialist oppressors. The military in the Arab countries were unjustly and deceitfully made to bear the consequences of the tragedy. There were some who considered that the chapter was closed for the Arabs and that they would never recover from the blow, but they forgot that Arab history contains more than one example proving that calamities of this kind do not destroy the Arab people but arouse and revitalise them. The Syrian people took their stand at the head of the aroused Arab peoples. It is obvious that army men would lead this general revival because the wounds which Palestine left in their hearts were still bleeding, were still crying out in pain and calling for revenge and for the wiping out of the shame. And because the leaders and experienced commanders of the army are trusty sons of the State, it is natural that they should protect it at decisive moments and in times of need.

"Colonel Shishakly added that he agreed with pride that this class of graduates should be named after the officer Suleiman el Kurdi who was killed in Palestine. 'We are swearing, and we will not break this oath, that our swords will not be sheathed until our slain will be pacified by the liberation and cleansing of the ground which they loved and which they sanctified and drenched with their blood.'"

In an interview with Mahmoud el Azeb Moussa, special correspondent in Damascus of the Egyptian newspaper "Al Ahram" published on 16 August 1952, under the heading "Colonel Shishakly talks to Al Ahram", Colonel Shishakly said:

"There is no room in the Middle East for the two peoples: The Arab people and the Israel people. Either the Arab people will be thrown into the Arabian desert or into the sea; or the foreign Jews must return to their countries of origin all over the world. There is no other solution to the problem."

These threats to resume the acts of Syrian aggression which were defeated four years ago violate the Charter of the United Nations and the General Armistice Agreement concluded between Syria and Israel on 20 July 1949. Under the terms of that Agreement, for the maintenance of which the Security Council has assumed a special responsibility, the signatories undertook to abstain not only from the use of force, but also from the threat of force against each other. Syrian threats, accompanied at times by statements that Syria aspires to expand beyond its authorized and legitimate frontier, and intends to use its armed forces to secure an alteration in the Armistice demarcation line, cannot fail to perpetuate and increase the tensions which prevail in the Near East.

The Government of Israel notes with concern this failure by the Syrian Government to conform with the spirit of the United Nations Charter and of the Syrian-Israel Armistice Agreement. A communication of strong protest has been made to the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization, whose action is now awaited.

I am further instructed to request that the contents of this letter be communicated to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abba EBAN
Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

