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NOTE VERBALE DATED 11 JUNE 1963 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to make the following observations on the letter addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, dated 10 June 1963 (S/5329).

1. On 9 June 1963, fortified Syrian army positions overlooking the eastern shore of Lake Tiberias opened fire with machine guns and recoilless guns at an Israel police launch engaged on a routine patrol on Lake Tiberias. The vessel returned the fire in self-protection.
2. The allegation in the Syrian letter that two Israel jet planes overflew Syrian territory and attacked the village of El-Douga with machine guns and rockets, is a frivolous untruth.
3. The statements in paragraphs 1 and 2 above are borne out by the evidence of the UNTSO investigators.
4. The Syrian attack on 9 June is the latest of the series of Syrian armed attacks from across the border, directed at Israel fishing vessels and police patrols on Lake Tiberias. In the Note from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the Secretary-General, dated 15 March 1963 (S/5261), attention was drawn to the constant harrassment of Israel fishermen on the Lake, and the constant illegal Syrian incursions on to the Lake across the armistice demarcation line. In that Note eighteen such incidents were listed between 1 January and 15 March 1963. This harrassment continued until the end of the winter fishing season.
5. These self-same Syrian gun positions are now reverting to a practice which has created a tense and dangerous situation in the past, namely, shooting with machine guns and artillery at Israel police launches carrying out normal patrol

duties on the waters of the Lake. This happened on Friday, 7 June, and again two days later, on Sunday, 9 June, as set out in paragraph 1 above.

6. The same pattern of aggression and harrassment continues to be evident also in the recurrent shooting incidents, in which Syrian army positions on the high ground near the border have directed fire at Israel farmers working in their fields. Since 21 May five incidents of this kind have occurred in the Tel Katzir area alone, on the following dates: 21 May (with fire opened also on the village of Beit Katzir); 22 May; 30 May; 2 June and 3 June.

7. The above incidents add up to the systematic use of weapons by the Syrian Army in order to disrupt Israel civilian activities in the border area, to drive away Israel fishermen, farmers and policemen by putting their lives in danger and destroying their property, and ultimately to try to establish Syrian territorial control beyond the borders of Syria. These actions constitute a gross violation of the Israel-Syrian General Armistic Agreement and the United Nations Charter, and their cumulative effect is a serious threat to the peace.

8. All these incidents were the subject of Israel complaints to the Mixed Armistice Commission and to the Secretariat. On numerous occasions representations have been made to the Syrian Government by United Nations authorities, in an attempt to bring a halt to this aggressive and provocative behaviour and to allay the tensions to which it gives rise.

The Permanent Representative of Israel is instructed by his Government once more to draw the attention of the Secretary-General to the gravity of the situation which is being created.

9. The culpability and responsibility of the Syrian Government in the matter cannot be evaded by putting out false and unfounded stories such as are contained in the Syrian letter of 10 June 1963 to the Secretary-General.

10. It is requested that this Note be circulated to members of the Security Council, as a United Nations document.

The Permanent Representative of Israel avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General the assurances of his highest consideration.

