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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 20 August 1984 from the Permanent Representative of
the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Acting upon the instructions of my Government I have the honour to reply hereby to your letter dated 9 March 1984 concerning the convening of an international conference on the Middle East.

The Syrian Arab Republic has always supported, and continues to support, the role of the United Nations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and the settlement of international disputes in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the principles of international justice and international law, in particular the principle of non-acquisition of territory by force and of the right of peoples to self-determination.

Based on that position of principle the Syrian Arab Republic has spared no effort in urging the necessity of establishing a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question within the framework of the United Nations and on the basis of United Nations resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of Palestine.

It is on this basis that the Syrian Arab Republic agreed to Security Council resolution 338 (1973), affirming, in document A/9250-S/11040 and Corr.1, dated 23 October 1973, that the Syrian Government's understanding of the resolution is based on two essential elements, namely:

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(a) the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied in, and subsequent to, June 1967;

(b) the safeguarding of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

In accordance with these convictions, which reflect the wishes of the international community, the Syrian Arab Republic supported General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, dated 13 December 1983, calling for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on an equal footing with other parties in order to attain a just and comprehensive settlement of the question of the Middle East that would guarantee that Israel evacuated all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and ensure the realization of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish its own independent State in its national territory.

The events that have occurred in the Middle East region have demonstrated that partial and piecemeal solutions cannot lead to the establishment of a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the region. The situation has become even more complex and explosive and Israel is committing one aggression after another without hindrance and in defiance of the United Nations Charter and international law.

It is now clear that the policy of force and fait accompli which Israel has been pursuing, with the unlimited support of the United States of America, is the main obstacle to the conclusion of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its wholehearted support for General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, dated 13 December 1983, concerning the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East and pays tribute to the efforts made by the Secretary-General in that area. It also expresses its support for the Soviet proposals of 29 July 1984. The Syrian Government reaffirms once more its readiness to contribute, in accordance with the above-mentioned bases and principles, to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 33 and 36 of the provisional agenda of the thirty-ninth session ("Question of Palestine" and "The situation in the Middle East"), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dia-Allah EL-FATTAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

N O T E

The translated versions of this document are being reissued at the request of the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic due to errors in translation. The previous translations of document A/39/416-S/16708, dated 20 August 1984, are hereby withdrawn; the Arabic original remains unchanged.