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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 6 October 1973 from the Deputy Minister  
for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic to  
the President of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention that at 14.00 hours (Syrian local time) of 6 October (today), the Israeli armed forces have launched military aggression against Syrian forward positions all along the cease-fire line. Our forces had to return the fire. Formations of Israeli aircraft took part in this aggression and penetrated our air space in the northern sector of the front, thus leading to their confrontation by our air force. The battle is still raging on land and in the air in such dimension as to reveal the Israeli intent of waging a total war.

The size of Israeli forces taking part in the attack and the territorial extension of Israeli military aggression demonstrate that Israel is determined to wage an all-out war in the area in order to realize new territorial expansion aiming at forcing the Arabs to surrender to Israeli diktat. This is further substantiated by the simultaneous large scale Israeli attack by land, air and sea against Egyptian territory west of the Suez Canal.

The members of the General Assembly are therefore faced with the situation which poses the gravest threat to world peace and security.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic expects that world public opinion and all peace-loving countries will spare no effort to bring an end to this new aggression by Israel and to its occupation for more than six years of part of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

As it was not possible to convene a meeting of the General Assembly today, I request Your Excellency urgently to circulate this letter as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Muhammad Zakaria ISMAIL  
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Syrian Arab Republic