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LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, dated 1 October 1965 (S/5731) and I wish to state the facts regarding the incident referred to in that letter.

On 22 August 1965, an Arab taxi-driver accidentally knocked down and killed a Jewish youth in the town of Ramleh. Other Jewish youths thereupon became incensed and attacked some of the Arab residents. The police intervened promptly and firmly, and those involved were arrested and are being prosecuted. The Israel authorities will not tolerate hooliganism from any quarter.

In publicly condemning the outbreak the Prime Minister reaffirmed that all citizens were assured of equal rights and protection under the laws of Israel, and that this would be rigidly enforced by the authorities. At the same time, he urged a spirit of mutual tolerance between different communities, and the elimination of prejudices. This statement was fully endorsed by the Press and public opinion.

In the town itself, the local leaders of the Jewish and Arab communities met in a traditional "Sulha" (conciliation ceremony) and pledged themselves to ensure harmony.

This local incident was deplorable; but the way it is presented in the Syrian letter, as well as the rest of the contents of the letter, are typically crude anti-Israel propaganda.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated to the members of the Security Council, as a Council document.

(Signed) Michael Comay
Permanent Representative
