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LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the present Security Council consideration of the Israel complaint against Syria, I have the honour to draw attention to fresh sabotage raids into Israel and warlike threats by Syrian leaders, in the last few days.

Four days ago a water pipe-line was sabotaged in the desert. The day before yesterday another vehicle was blown up by a land-mine on the Syrian border. It was a civilian truck engaged in land reclamation work. Fortunately nobody was killed. At the same spot, next to a Syrian military position, other vehicles were blown up on 6 September, 9 September, 18 October and 23 October.

During this debate the terrorist raids into Israel have been stepped up, and they are now occurring at a faster tempo than at any time since they started nearly two years ago. There is not the slightest indication that the Syrian authorities have taken any measures to prevent the raids, or that they contemplate taking such measures. On the contrary, the Syrian Government is feeding the tension by its own inflammatory statements, which constitute open incitement to war. A week ago, on 23 October, a speech by the Syrian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Dr. Ibrahim Makhus, was broadcast by Damascus Radio. It includes the following passages:

"We will not lose anything by fighting the popular liberation war. The people must be ready from now on for all eventualities. We must not fear anything. The Arab nation can only be united through battle, and Israel can only be eliminated through battle." (B.B.C. monitoring service)

Three days ago, on 31 October, the following Associated Press dispatch was sent from Damascus:

"In Damascus the international (Pan-Arab) Congress of Syria's ruling socialist Baath Party urged socialist Arab countries to join forces and 'speed a showdown with Israel'. In a lengthy policy statement, the Congress warned time is against the Arabs in a conflict with Israel. It urged 'progressive Arab regimes' to 'take speediest measures to effect a pan-Arab liberation war against Israel'."

I must draw particular attention to the speech made yesterday by President Atassi of Syria at a mass rally. He attacked other Arab rulers as criminals for firing at "Palestine fighters returning from the occupied territory after they had performed their duty". He added that, "In their name I proclaim that Palestine will be restored to its owners not through the United Nations and not through reactionary rulers, but through the instrumentality of a popular war...". The President of Syria then referred to the present debate in the Security Council and attacked and derided the Council for bothering about vehicles being blown up in Israel instead of concerning itself with important things.

It would be superfluous to stress that the reckless and irresponsible proclamations violate the United Nations Charter and the Israel-Syrian General Armistice Agreement.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Michael COMAY
Permanent Representative

