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United Nations
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TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION

Jerusalem, 8 September, 1953

Dear Dr. Eytan,

I am communicating to you a copy of an urgent letter I am sending to Colonel Shalev.

I had hoped that, during my absence from the Middle East, the obstacle which, since the end of May, had prevented a resumption of the Israel-Syrian talks would be removed. Such is, however, not the case, and the end of the tension resulting from conflicting views on the question of legitimate or illegitimate activities in the Demilitarized Zone is not in sight.

So long as the present provisions of Article V of the Armistice Agreement and Dr. Bunch's authoritative comment remain in force, the powers of the Chairman with regard to the Demilitarized Zone must be discharged. He cannot discharge them unless he is informed sufficiently in advance of any proposed action and is given an opportunity to study it and to form his considered opinion.

You will accordingly appreciate why in the present circumstances I am urging that working on the proposed damming of the western channel of the Jordan be stopped and that I should receive full information on the proposed new irrigation project.

Yours sincerely,

(-) Major General Vagn Bennike,
Chief of Staff.

Dr. Walter Eytan
Director General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.