GA Fourth Committee

Explanation of Vote

November 15, 2010

SYRIA: I thank you, Mr. Chairman. The delegation of the Syrian Republic would like to extend its thanks to all delegations that voted today in favor of the draft resolutions on item 51 and item 52, including the draft resolution entitled Occupied Syrian Golan. I would like also to thank the delegations of Cuba and Indonesia for presenting these draft resolutions.

The Security Council has confirmed once again through its wide support for these resolutions its rejection for the principle of occupying the territory of other subsidy force and its rejection for total -- for disregard regarding the right of people. The international community has sent an ambiguous message to Israel, the occupying power, requesting it to end its occupation of all Arab Occupied Territories, to cease its violations of the Geneva Convention of 1949.

The voting of the majority of the delegations, peace-loving delegations and that believe in international humanitarian law, in favor of the draft resolution on the Occupied Syrian Golan confirms once again that the attempts by Israel, the occupying power, to annex the Occupied Syrian Golan and to impose its legal and administrative jurisdiction over it and the expansion of settlements in that land and the apartheid practices against the citizens of the Golan are null and void and have no legal effect in the view of the international community.

This confirms the resolution 479 of 1981, which was adopted unanimously. Everybody knows that the violation by Israel of international law is dangerous and, double, Israel didn’t find it enough to occupy the Syrian Golan, but in a provocative manner issued some decisions, one of which was a resolution annexing the Syrian Golan. This was a provocative act which repeats black pages in the history of modern humanity, particularly that it reminds us of what happened at the beginning of the Second World War in Europe, when one aggressive country attacked another sovereign country and annexed parts of its territory thereof.

By adopting the draft resolution, the Committee has confirmed the importance of the Special Committee Investigating Israeli Practices in the Occupied Arab Territories. We call upon all states to provide the necessary assistance to this Committee, because it represents the eye that reveals to the international community Israel’s crime, and we believe that any attempt to attack this committee or to weaken this committee would only mean that we will give Israel a cover to continue its settlement practices and activities on the Occupied Arab Territories and its violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Syria has always expressed its commitment to comprehensive and just peace, and with Arab countries it has accepted the Arab Peace Initiative. It has extended its hand to peace, but Israel has resort -- prevarication to disregard and to continue its occupational practices in the Occupied Arab Territories. Here we are talking mainly about the continued dictation of 11,000 Palestinians in the prisons of the occupied power, including hundreds of those who were elected legally by the Palestinian people. We are talking here about -- about the continued blockade against Gaza despite all -- what was talked about by the international community against this collective blockade by Israel against Gaza. All these matter were discussed by the international community, were known to the international community through the Goldstone report.

Also, we are witnessing unabated settlement activities in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem and the Occupied Syrian Golan. This despite condemnation by the international community of Israel’s attitude. The peace process cannot be achieved by one party supporting peace and supported by the international community -- and here we talk about the Arab side -- and another party, Israeli party, which tries its best to undermine this peace all along the time.

What’s lacking in the peace process is an Israeli partner who is ready to achieve the peace process in accordance with the basis known to industrial community and to the Israelis quite well.

We have been heartened, sir. We have been -- that some -- a few delegations have refrained from voting on the resolution on the Occupied Syrian Golan, and we call upon these delegations to join the international community on this matter. But this could be done by voting in favor of this resolution when it will be submitted before the General Assembly in the few coming days.

We say this because any hesitation in condemning the Israeli occupation and annexation will send the wrong message to those outlaws, indicating that the rule of jungle will replace international law in this 21st century, and that those outlaws can go unpunished.

Here, allow me at least to extend my thanks to the Chairman of the Committee for his excellent performance and for conducting the proceedings of the meeting very professionally. I would like to thank the Secretariat for the facilities it has provided and for submitting the documents on this question.

At the end, I would like to say that Israel was the only country that has voted against the draft resolution on the Occupied Syrian Golan and against all other resolutions related to the Palestinian question. This in itself sends a blatant Israeli message for all to see, that Israel is outside the international consensus, that it challenges the authority of the United Nations, the international law, and the international humanitarian law.

As for those who voted against some of the draft resolutions, sincerely, we ask them to put themselves only for one day in the place of those Palestinians, civilian Palestinians, in the West Bank and East Palestinian and in place of the Syrians in the Occupied Golan, let them just place themselves one day in the place of those people, and let them suffer from the attitudes of the settlers when they eject them from their hands, when they suffer, when they suffer because of the aggression committed by these settlers against their dignity as human beings. We call upon them just to live one day in the camps of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in the other countries adjacent to Palestinian so that they can witness the suffering of the Palestinian people, the suffering that has lasted for more than 60 years so far. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ISRAEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My country has already expressed its positions versus these resolutions, and I don’t want to repeat them. Let me just relate to what the Permanent Representative of Syria said. To hear lectures from a country who is every day sabotaging peace in the Middle East by delivering arms to terrorist organizations in Lebanon, in Gaza Strip, it’s really preposterous. This country should look at itself first and the way it should -- it can help peace, instead of giving lectures. Its actions don’t show any will of peace. Thank you very much.

[01:31:14]

SYRIA: There is no other terrorism on the surface of the planet like the terrorism committed by Israel. This entity was established on the basis of terrorism. And its terrorism which carried the names of gangs, terrorist gangs like Sten and Hagana [?] [01:31:54] and others. These are gangs were led by heads of government in Israel ... [?] [01:32:05] that stage. These gangs committed aggression, committed aggression collectively against the Palestinian people in the 40s and in the 50s. They killed hundreds in collective massacres in Tibia and Deraseen [?] [01:32:22] and other regions of Palestine.

Then the hands of the Israeli state terrorism extended to other Arab countries. This terrorism committed collective massacres in Golan and in the first Khana and the second Khana in Lebanon and in Jordan and in Egypt. The hands of terrorism even reached Tunisia, the Sudan, and other regions of the world. This entity has no right to speak about law before its leaders and governors knew the meaning of law. They are outlaws and this is how they are treated by the international community. The voting by majority against Israel today is just a clearcut example.

The governors of Israel do not understand that their occupation of the territories of others by force is rejected in international law and their rejection of the Geneva Convention of 1949 is a documented thing. In many reports, tens of reports, written by Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations, this is reflected in tens of reports prepared by United Nations' experts, the last of which was the Goldstone Report.

This is Israeli violation is known to all. It is a violation that embarrasses those who are closest to Israel in this international organization. Israel has introduced nuclear weapons to the region and it threatens to use nuclear weapons. It is Israel that blackmails the closest ally of it, that is the United States in order to get the most concessions possible in order to free settlements for two months or for three months only. This is a big lie because settlement has never stopped and because the Israeli settlement has reached more advanced dangerous dimensions before talking about the peace process.

The leaders of Israel have not a single partner who believes in peace. They are people who call for war. They are war lovers. They are teachers in provocation. They oppress others. And they send messages of apartheid and racism. In the 21st century they ask for the establishment of a Jewish state and then at the same time, they say that they are an oasis of peace in the Middle East. How can this -- how can we accommodate this with that? What can we do regarding the hundreds of settlements in the Occupied Arab Territories? Isn't this terrorism?

I call the representative of Israel to keep silent and to be ashamed of the policies of their country and not to force us to talk more than that and to expose them as they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[01:36:13]

ISRAEL: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to prolong. I think the statement of the Syrian representative talks for itself and shows where Syria really stands. As I said, instead of supporting terror, giving weapons to Hamas, to Hezbollah every day, they should really show us that they want peace. The burden of proof is on them. Thank you very much.

[01:36:45]

SYRIA: Sorry to take the floor once again. But I feel forced to teach the representative of Israel a lesson in history. The Palestinian people in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip is a struggling people against a foreign occupation. This Palestinian people cannot in any way be terrorists because the Palestinian people is struggling against the Israeli state terrorism represented in continued occupation by Israel of the Palestinian Territory.

Lebanese resistance is not terrorism because it stands against Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories and because Israel committed aggression against Lebanon more than ten times over the past 30 years.

The Israeli state terrorism is the one that has to be asked. The Palestinians are defending themselves against an occupation that shows disregard to their human dignity every hour and four decades. This is why there are tens of resolutions on the Palestinian question supported by the international community in this international organization. We cannot find one single draft resolution that supports Israeli occupation. Israel is isolated internationally. This is why it seeks to exploit the situation and to withdraw from peace. Peace is based on complete withdrawal of the Occupied Arab Territory since 1967. Otherwise, to talk about settlements, to spread rumors, to have aggressions against Lebanon, against Palestine, against Gaza, against Jerusalem, against Syria and to threaten to use nuclear weapons in the Middle East -- all these are just false ideas that were exposed by the international community. Israel is fully exposed -- vertically and horizontally and there is no way that these lies should be accepted by anybody.

There is one single terrorism in the Middle East. It is the Israeli state terrorism. Thank you, sir.