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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 19 September 1979 from the Permanent Representative of  
Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the statement issued by the Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt concerning the latest Israeli decision to allow Israelis to buy land in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

I kindly request that this letter and annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 24 and 25 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Ahmed Esmat ABDEL MEGUID  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

\* A/34/150.

ANNEX

Statement by the Prime Minister of Egypt on the decision of  
Israeli land purchases in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

The Israeli Government's decision to allow Israeli nationals to purchase land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a prelude to exercising pressure on Arab citizens in these areas to force them to sell their land. Concomitant with the Israeli policy of continuously establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories, this decision is a flagrant violation of the spirit of peace and the Camp David accords. It also constitutes an attempt to eradicate the Arab character of Palestinian territories and to create new conditions which are intended to obstruct the exercise of the rights of the Palestinian people in its homeland.

Egypt, supported by the entire international community, strongly condemns these practices which violate the provisions of international law and are contradictory to the sincere desire to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East, providing for respect of the rights of all parties, especially the rights of the Palestinian people who have suffered oppression and domination, and for whose sake Egypt is working to relieve their suffering and to enable them to restore fully their legitimate rights.

While Israel is trying to set up one obstacle after another on the only road toward establishing a just and lasting peace in the area, the resolute position of Egypt, which enjoys world-wide support, is capable of overcoming these obstacles in the same way that they were overcome during the negotiations of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. We will pursue our efforts, confident of the justice of our cause and the strength of our position. We believe that no matter what dark clouds may gather, the dawn of freedom will shine over the Palestinian people to enable them to be the master of their own homeland. The Palestinian people will join other peoples who have freed themselves and who now aspire to a new era of peace, justice and prosperity.

Israel is thus warned that its practices will fail to stop the movement of history in the direction of national liberation.

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