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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 21 July 1970 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Secretary-General

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the Statement of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the situation in the Middle East to be circulated as an official document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly.

(Signed) A. ZAKHAROV
Acting Permanent Representative
of the USSR to the United Nations

* Also issued as document S/9881.

STATEMENT OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expresses grave concern and alarm at the threat to world peace being created in the Middle East by the aggressive actions of Israel and its imperialist protectors.

It is now three years since the invasion by Israeli troops of the territory of the United Arab Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan was halted in conformity with the decision of the United Nations Security Council. Yet, Israel is continuing its aggression against the Arab States, is occupying the conquered Arab lands and is carrying out armed attacks from the air on the territory of the United Arab Republic, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. As a result, the situation in the Middle East poses the threat of a new explosion.

Israel has not complied with a single one of the Security Council and General Assembly decisions relating to the crisis in the Middle East. It is continuing to take an obstructionist attitude, as it has in the past, towards all efforts to bring about a political settlement in the Middle East. Today more than ever it is obvious that Israel is not fighting for its existence or for its security but for the conquest of foreign territory. In the occupied Arab lands, Israel is pursuing a policy of colonial plunder and mass terror against the Arab population.

The purpose of Israel's present policy is to block the path to a political settlement in the Middle East and bring intensified pressure to bear on the Arab countries in an effort to hold on to the fruits of its aggression. However, the Israelis are miscalculating. Any plan which would permit Israel to continue its occupation of Arab territories, much less annex them, and which would place Israel's interests above those of the other States in the region is foredoomed to failure.

For ten years, the peoples of the Arab East have known no peace and have had to wage an intense struggle for national liberation and social progress and this whole region has frequently been the scene of military clashes. The reason for this is the policy of imperialism, which is seeking to strike a blow at the freedom movement of the Arab peoples and to preserve its strategic and economic

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positions in this region and particularly the possibility of exploiting the region's oil resources. The imperialist Powers, with the United States in the forefront, and the instruments of their policy in this region - the ruling circles in Israel - bear full responsibility for the dangerous situation in the Middle East. The United States is actually encouraging Israeli ruling circles.

The alternatives are now as follows: either a further extension of the military threat in the Middle East (and this may occur if the aggressor is not checked) or the adoption of measures to ensure a political settlement on the basis of the complete implementation of the Security Council resolution of 22 November 1967.

Israel's aggression in the Middle East, supported by the neo-colonialist circles, is not directed solely against the Arab States. What is happening in this region, at the junction of the Asian and African continents, has a direct bearing on the fate of the peoples of all countries in Asia and Africa and on the fate of universal peace and the security of nations. The anti-imperialist and peace-loving forces realize that passivity in the face of the aggressor would give the imperialists a free hand to undertake new aggressive actions, directed against other peoples and other independent States.

The Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR are convinced that no parliament and no parliamentarian can stand aloof while the reckless actions of the Israeli leaders create a real threat to international peace and security. Decisive action by those who hold dear the ideals of peace, freedom and independence of peoples and condemnation and isolation of the aggressor and his protectors are required to force them to abandon their adventurist course. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR fully endorses the Soviet Government's policy of granting every possible assistance to the Arab States in their courageous struggle against Israeli aggression - a policy which is designed to achieve a just and peaceful political settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR considers that each State in the Middle East has the right to a separate national existence, to independence and security.

The Soviet Union considers today, as it has in the past, that only the peoples and Governments of the States established in the Middle East can be the masters of the situation there.

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The Supreme Soviet of the USSR expresses the hope that this statement will meet with a favourable response and with support from all peace-loving forces and will enable States to take the necessary measures to achieve the goal of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

SUPREME SOVIET OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow, the Kremlin
15 July 1970
