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OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM 1 TO 10 NOVEMBER 1956

Letter dated 27 November 1956 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Israel, addressed to the President of the General Assembly

New York, 27 November 1956

I have the honour, on behalf of the Government of Israel, to draw your attention to the very grave reports of official action taken by the Egyptian Government against the Jewish community in Egypt.

According to reports which have come to hand today, an official decree promulgated last Thursday, 22 November, made all Jews not in possession of Egyptian nationality liable to immediate deportation, while those who have acquired Egyptian nationality after 1922 were to be deprived of their citizenship and deported as well. The number of persons affected is believed to be over 30,000. The deportees, some of whom have already arrived in various points in Europe are compelled to abandon all their property behind them apart from 10 Egyptian pounds and a suitcase of personal clothing.

In addition to the action taken against the persons and property of individual members of the Egyptian Jewish community, the Egyptian authorities have also moved against the community as an organized body. Jewish hospitals in Cairo and Alexandria have been sequestered, the sick ejected and the medical staff arrested. There are also reports of interference with the supply of food to Jewish humanitarian institutions.

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The Government of Israel has instructed me to express its revulsion at this assault against the persons and property of a peaceful community, which is a violation of the human rights provisions of the Charter.

I have the honour to request you, as a matter of the utmost urgency, to approach the Egyptian Government in order to cause it to desist from the inhuman policy which it is now pursuing.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated among all the Members of the United Nations.

(Signed) Golda MEIR  
Minister for Foreign Affairs