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LETTER DATED 28 DECEMBER 1973 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the allegations of the Government of Israel concerning certain breaches by the Egyptian authorities of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949, and contained in the letter dated 9 December 1973 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

According to this letter the Government of Israel has complained to the International Committee of the Red Cross that alleged crimes of murder, torture, acts of brutality and other serious breaches of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949, were perpetrated by the Egyptian authorities upon Israeli soldiers taken captive by Egyptian forces in the course of the hostilities in October and November 1973. I wish to declare emphatically that the Government of Egypt rejects categorically all these allegations which are totally fabricated and without any foundation whatsoever.

The allegations made in this respect by the Government of Israel are merely a smoke-screen to conceal the criminal acts perpetrated by the Israeli authorities against the peaceful civilian population west of the Suez Canal, as well as the cruel, inhuman and illegal treatment inflicted by these authorities on the Egyptian prisoners of war taken captive in the hostilities in October 1973, acts which have been amply demonstrated in my letters addressed to your Excellency dated 20 and 26 December 1973.

It is evident that whatever allegations are made by the Government of Israel, they cannot succeed in detracting the attention of the whole world from the Israeli arrogant and ruthless policy, which has become legendary in the United Nations, and which is based on the total rejection and flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, in pursuance of Israel's aims of occupation and annexation.

I request your Excellency that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. A. Esmat Abdel MEGUID
Ambassador
Permanent Representative