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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST\*\*

Letter dated 25 August 1969 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention the following statement issued this morning in Jerusalem on behalf of the Government of Israel:

"The Government of Israel has been profoundly shocked to hear of the execution in Baghdad, this morning, of fifteen men, of whom two, at least, were Jews. By these further hangings, the Iraqi régime, whose barbarous character all the world knows, has demonstrated that it has reverted to its vile ways, in the conduct of show-trials, in recurring executions and in a vicious onslaught on the defenceless Jewish community, a community of which the members are being held as hostages by the tyrannical authorities of more than one Arab State.

"Until yesterday evening, the Iraqis had not published a word about the process of this trial. Information that reached us in the past week from Baghdad through news agencies made mention of other names of men indicted on the familiar charge of espionage, a fact which heightens our suspicions and our concern that we face a recrudescence of the wave of hangings in Baghdad.

"When the Ministry for Foreign Affairs became aware of the danger of new trials in Iraq, it once more appealed urgently to certain heads of states and spiritual leaders, hoping to save the men under indictment and to prevent these monstrous executions.

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\*\* Item 27 of the provisional agenda.

"The Government of Israel now appeals to heads of states, to spiritual leaders and to heads of international organizations to do everything in their power to stop this tide of terror, of hate and incitement in Baghdad, and to work forthwith for the salvation of the Jews of Iraq, Syria and Egypt, so that they may be permitted to depart from those countries, where they are confined as persecuted hostages and where their elementary human rights are being trampled into the dust."

I have the honour to request circulation of this letter as a document of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations

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