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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Letter dated 20 February 1980 from the Acting Chairman of the
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People I wish to draw your attention to the latest decision reportedly taken by the Israeli Cabinet which authorizes Israeli settlement in the heart of the Arab city of Al-Khalil, situated in the territories illegally occupied by Israel since 1967.

This decision, following on other similar decisions taken by the Government of Israel, is but another step towards strengthening its annexation of the occupied Arab territories in flagrant violation of international law, world public opinion and General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

Once more, Israel has clearly demonstrated that it is bent on a policy of annexation of the illegally occupied Arab territories and that its protestations of being a peace-loving member of the United Nations, dedicated to finding a comprehensive solution to the problem of the Middle East, have no basis in good faith.

Reports in the Israeli press already warn of the tension that exists in Al-Khalil and the possibility of violence in the face of Israel's acts of provocation. The Committee feels strongly that immediate action should be taken to prevent any escalation of tension in the area.

The Security Council has adopted resolutions, particularly resolution 452 (1979) of 20 July 1979, which recognize the dangerous consequences of Israel's defiant acts and consider them as a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

* A/35/50.

The Committee feels that further urgent action needs to be taken by the United Nations, and in particular by the Security Council, to convince Israel of the danger of its settlement policies and the necessity for its immediate and complete withdrawal from the illegally occupied territories.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 24 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Falilou KANE
Acting Chairman of the Committee
on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People
