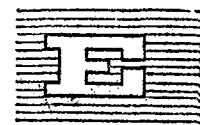


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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirty-sixth session
Agenda item 4

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES,
INCLUDING PALESTINE

Letter dated 15 February 1980 from the Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office and specialized agencies at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth session

The Egyptian delegation to the Commission on Human Rights has the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt following the decision by Israel to establish new settlements in the occupied town of El Khalil.

The Egyptian delegation would be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights.

(signed) OMRAN EL SHAFEI

TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has just learned with great concern and indignation that the Government of Israel has decided to allow Israeli citizens to take up residence in the occupied town of El Khalil, to reinforce the Keryat Erbaa settlement by building 1,400 new dwellings and to establish three other settlements in the region.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt much regrets this decision, which is contrary to the letter and the spirit of the Camp David agreements and is in flagrant violation of the fourth Geneva Convention, United Nations resolutions and the principles of international law.

The Israeli decision constitutes an impediment to the progress of the current negotiations on the establishment of full Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli policy of establishing settlements only serves to escalate tension and to threaten peace and security in the region.