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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. At its 2199th meeting held on 22 February 1980, the Security Council, while discussing the question concerning the situation in the occupied Arab territories, decided, at the request of the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations (S/13814), to extend an invitation, in accordance with rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, to Mr. Fahd Qawasmah.

2. Following that decision, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter on the same day to the Secretary-General. The text of this letter is as follows:

"I have the honour to refer to the decision taken by the Security Council at its 2199th meeting this afternoon in connexion with the item entitled 'The situation in the occupied Arab territories' to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure, as requested by the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations in document S/13814, to Mr. Fahd Qawasmah, Mayor of Al-Khalil (Hebron).

"In accordance with the decision taken by the Security Council pursuant to a further request of the representative of Tunisia, I have the honour to request you to bring this matter to the attention of the Government of Israel in order that Mr. Qawasmah may be permitted to address the Security Council in New York, and thereafter to return to his post."

3. On 23 February 1980, the Secretary-General addressed the following letter to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations:

"I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter dated 22 February 1980 addressed to me by the President of the Security Council in relation to the proceedings of the 2199th meeting of the Council on the afternoon of 22 February 1980. I should be grateful if you would bring the matter of the invitation by the Security Council to Mr. Fahd Qawasmah, Mayor of Al-Khalil (Hebron), to the attention of the Government of Israel for its urgent consideration."

4. On 25 February 1980, the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed a letter to the Secretary-General which read as follows:

"I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 23 February 1980, with which you transmitted to me a copy of the letter of the President of the Security Council dated 22 February 1980, addressed to you, in relation to Mr. Fahd Qawasmah, the Mayor of Hebron.

"I have brought your letter to the attention of my Government as requested. I am now instructed to inform you that the Government of Israel cannot see their way to permit Mr. Qawasmah to travel abroad at this time.

"Although Israel is under no obligation whatsoever to permit the residents of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District to travel abroad, its liberal policy in administering these territories has also found expression in consistently facilitating free movement of the local residents abroad, including movement to Arab countries which regard themselves as being in a state of war with Israel.

"Mr. Qawasmah himself has been the beneficiary of this liberal approach on numerous occasions and has been permitted to travel extensively to various Arab countries as well as to Europe and the United States.

"However, the purpose of his intended trip on this occasion would be to lend support to Israel's avowed enemies in their ongoing and concerted campaign of incitement and vilification and in this way to aid and abet them in their unrelenting political warfare against Israel."
