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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 19 March 1971 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 15 March 1971 by the Permanent Representative of Spain (A/8301, S/10159) and to state the following.

This letter is one more expression of the biased pro-Arab policy persistently followed by Spain for over twenty years on every political aspect relating to the Middle East, and it has to be read accordingly.

Spain did not raise its voice when Arab States twice in recent times initiated and launched military attacks, including heavy shellings on Jerusalem, endangering all its holy places and religious sites. Spain also made no move when during the Jordanian occupation of part of Jerusalem, the Jewish holy places and religious institutions and the whole of the Jewish quarter of the Old City were wantonly and systematically destroyed and Jews were denied access to their holy places.

As stated in my letter to you of 16 March 1971 (A/8300, S/10158), Jerusalem is a living and growing city in which Jews have constituted the majority of the population for generations. The allegations in the letter under discussion that there have been "measures of assimilation" are unfounded. Urban improvements and developments in the city are designed to serve all its residents and ensure its proper growth. There has never been such equality in rights and opportunities for all religious bodies interested in Jerusalem and for all communities in the city as there is now.

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

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