



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/10286
9 October 1975
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Thirtieth session
Agenda item 52

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI
PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Note verbale dated 26 September 1975 from the Acting
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

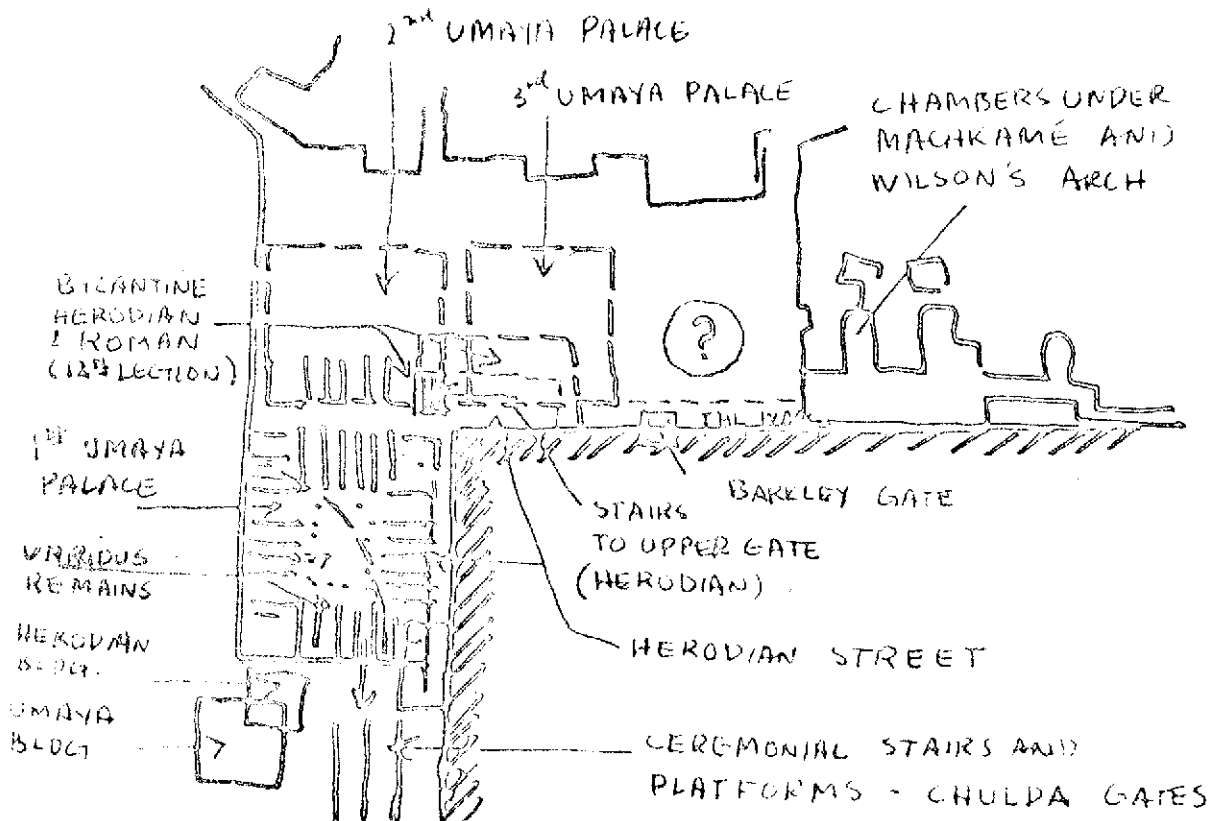
The Acting Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and, upon instructions from his Government, has the honour to inform it of the following:

1. The Israeli occupation authorities continue to obliterate the cultural and Arab landmarks and monuments in the occupied Arab territories, in violation of the resolutions of the United Nations and the specialized agencies on this subject.
2. As one further example that may be cited in this connexion, an Israeli archaeological mission under Benjamin Maszar, joined by Barer Ben Dov, has recently undertaken excavations west of the Wall surrounding the Holy Shrine, digging at the western end of the Wall, with a view to finding the remains of the Temple. They discovered three Omayyad palaces which were parallel to the Holy Shrine (enclosed are three sketches of the excavations) as well as a Roman gate, which they named Barkley Gate, below the level of the Omayyad palaces. The said mission has claimed that the Gate was a Hebrew Gate, and decided that a Hebrew stratum existed there, despite the fact that the gate was Roman and not Hebrew.
3. On the basis of this false claim, the Jerusalem Municipality and the Israeli Ministry of Religions assigned Engineer Moshe Saffie to prepare an organizational plan of the area, starting at the alleged stratum, thus distorting the features of the three Arab Omayyad palaces.
4. The Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations, while placing these facts before the attention of the Secretariat, requests the United Nations to work, in consultation with UNESCO, to halt this encroachment on Arab cultural

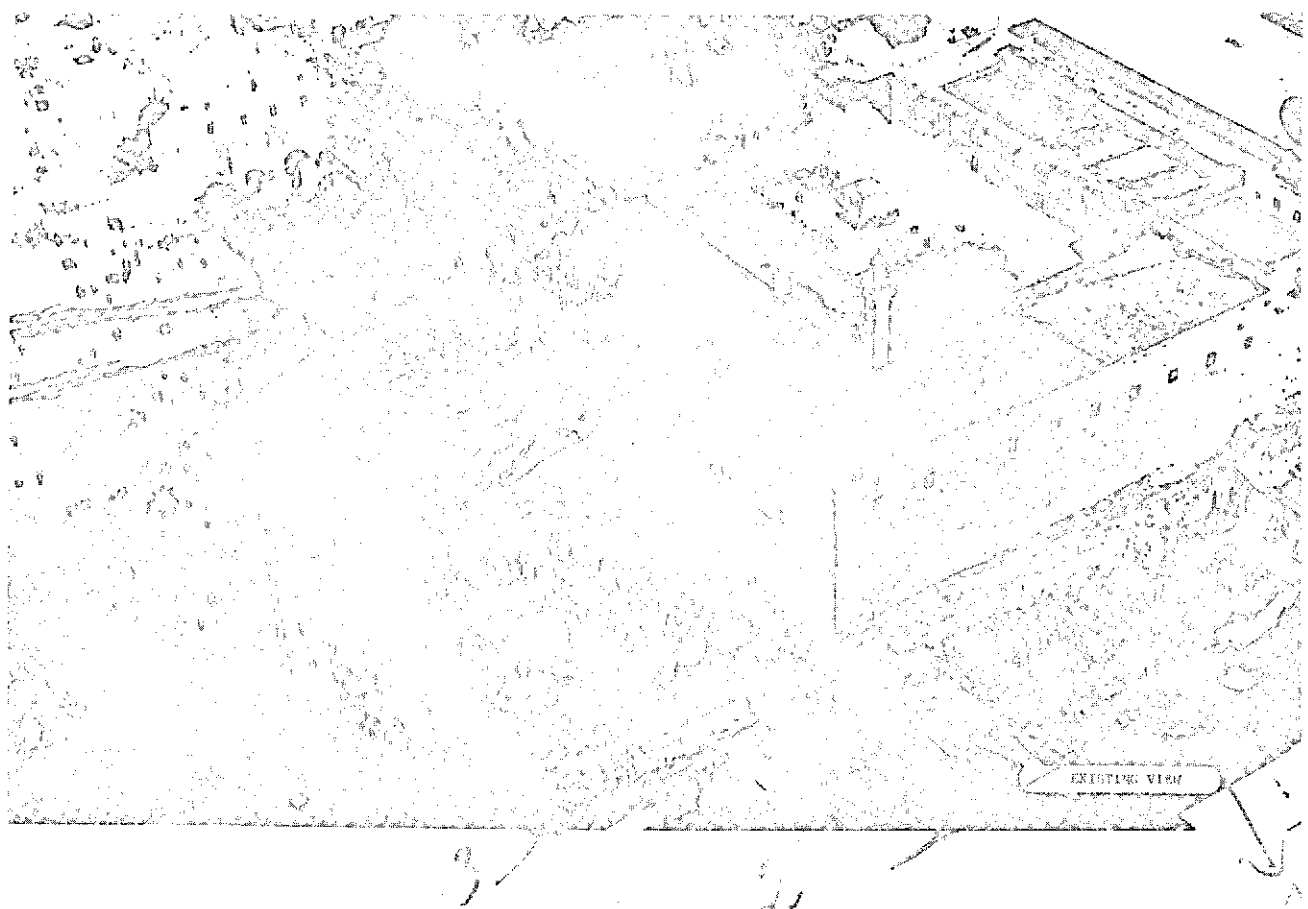
monuments and landmarks. The Mission further requests the United Nations to distribute this memorandum as an official document of the Organization under item 52 of the General Assembly's agenda and as new evidence of the violation by the Israeli occupation authorities of international codes and of the United Nations resolutions relating to the preservation and maintenance of the Arab and cultural monuments and the prevention of any alteration in their character.

5. While making this request, the Mission would have no objection to having an international archaeological body, accredited by the Arab side, carry out the necessary studies on this matter, halt all Israeli organizational plans affecting these palaces and other Arab monuments, and restore those palaces and monuments and preserve them against obliteration by any development or housing project in the future. The Mission further requests that there should be no encroachment on the limits of the Holy Shrine and other Islamic establishments in the south-western corner, especially Hassaniyah School, which dates back to the Mameluk period, and Menaret Ghawanimah, since the development and housing project undertaken by the Municipality of Jerusalem and the Israeli Ministry of Religions in the above-mentioned area, in the manner quoted in paragraph 3 above, involves the whole area.

ANNEX I



ANNEX II



ANNEX III



Palais du Gouverneur