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Letter dated 19 September 1979 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you of the serious concern of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People at the most recent manifestations, reported in the press, of Israel's determination to strengthen its presence in the occupied Arab territories, in defiance of world public opinion and in flagrant violation of international law and of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

The Israeli Government's decision to abrogate the provisions prohibiting Israeli companies and nationals from purchasing land in the illegally occupied Arab territories is a further example of the insidious colonialism which characterizes Israel's policy towards the territories which it seized by force in 1967.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has repeatedly emphasized the urgency of bringing about a complete withdrawal by Israel from the occupied territories, as an essential first step in putting an end to flagrant violations of human rights in defiance of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law. Only then would it be possible for the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people to be respected.

Following so closely upon the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 452 (1979), in which the Council accepted the recommendations of the Security Council Commission established under resolution 446 (1979) and called upon the Government and people of Israel to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment,

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construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, the recent decision of the Israeli Government clearly proves that Israel has scant respect for the United Nations, to which it was admitted mainly on the strength of undertakings by the then leaders of Israel to accept and comply with resolutions adopted by the Organization.

This latest action is also further proof of the duplicity of Israel, which, on the one hand, claims to be striving to promote the autonomy of the occupied territories and, on the other, reveals by its actions its intention of colonizing the region by altering the population distribution and the system of land tenure in the occupied territories in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, dating from 1949. $\underline{1}$ / It is obvious that when the Permanent Representative of Israel, in a recent newspaper article, slandered the United Nations, to which Israel owes its very existence, he was simply trying to find an excuse for the latest violation by Israel of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Committee is firmly convinced that action must be taken as a matter of urgency to halt this trend of affairs and to obtain the early withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories. Any continuation by Israel of this kind of policy in the illegally occupied Arab territories can only aggravate existing tensions in the region and threaten international peace and security.

I should be obliged if you would circulate the text of this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under item 24 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

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(<u>Signed</u>) Médoune FALL Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalíenable Rights of the Palestinian People

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.