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LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Egypt learned, with deep grief and shock, of the terrorist attacks perpetrated by an Israeli terrorist group against the Mayors of Nablus and Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued, on 2 June 1980, the following statement in connexion with the recent grave incidents in the occupied West Bank:

"Statement by an Official Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt concerning the latest developments in the West Bank"

"Egypt learned with much distress and deep sorrow of the dastardly attack perpetrated by a terrorist Israeli group against Mr. Bassam El-Shaka, Mayor of Nablus, and Mr. Karem Khalef, Mayor of Ramallah, while the Israeli Occupation Authorities and the Israeli Government were responsible for their safety.

"This criminal and barbaric act is a resounding and incriminating testimony to the evils of the Israeli Military occupation to which the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza are subjected. These acts provide further evidence of the necessity and urgency of terminating the Israeli occupation and to bringing to an end the terrorist practices pursued by the Military administration. It moreover unequivocally attests to the falsehood of the Israeli settlement policy with regard to Palestinian lands: a policy that not only undermines the basis of coexistence between the Palestinian people and the people of Israel, but also fuels the vicious cycle of violence, bitterness and hatred at a time when there is an urgent need for a propitious climate to effect the historical reconciliation based on strict respect of law, justice and good-neighbourliness.

"The Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in condemning this brutal, criminal act, calls upon the Government of Israel, as the occupying Power, to shoulder its responsibilities by taking all necessary measures to punish the terrorist groups that have committed this atrocity, and to ensure the protection of the peoples of the occupied territories in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, which governs the status of the legitimate Arab owners of the lands under Israeli occupation. The Government of Israel cannot shirk its responsibility until there is a complete transfer of power to the Palestinian self-governing authority.

"Meanwhile, the series of events that have taken, and are still taking place in the occupied territories, destroy all Israel's arguments that the maintenance of security in the occupied territories should remain an exclusive Israeli responsibility. Under the Israeli Military administration, Palestinians have been denied their rights, their security has been endangered and their lives threatened while they continue to be expelled from their homes. It is therefore imperative that the Palestinians themselves take over security affairs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, within the framework of full self-government, in order to ensure their security and safety while creating conditions for a just solution of the Palestinian question. Egypt, meanwhile, will spare no effort to safeguard the legitimate rights of the brotherly people of Palestine on the path of just and comprehensive peace."

Upon instructions from my Government, I request that this letter be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. A. Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
