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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-second year

Letter dated 22 December 1987 from the Permanent
Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 22 December 1987 by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia on the current situation in the occupied Arab territories (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Question of Palestine" and "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali ALATAS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement issued on 22 December 1987 by the Department of Foreign
Affairs of Indonesia concerning the situation in the Israeli
occupied Arab territories

The Government of Indonesia has been following with deep concern and profound anguish the current tragic developments in the illegally occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, resulting from renewed acts of violence by Israeli forces and causing the killing and wounding of many innocent Palestinian men, women and children, as well as the arrest of hundreds more. Indonesia strongly condemns this further manifestation of the "iron-fist" policy of the occupying Power as a blatant and gross violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of War, of 12 August 1949.

The dangerous escalation of the repression and the perpetration of such atrocities is the direct consequence of prolonged occupation and the intolerable political, economic and social conditions to which the Palestinian population continues to be subjected. This deplorable state of affairs will continue as long as the Palestinian people are denied their inalienable right to self-determination, including an independent homeland in Palestine. Any further deterioration of the situation can only lead to an exacerbation of the acute tensions and confrontation in the region, which pose a grave threat to international peace and security. The Government of Indonesia therefore calls especially upon the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility and to respond with firmness in putting an end to such wanton acts of brutality which cannot but seriously undermine efforts to achieve a just, peaceful and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East conflict as a whole, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the Organization.
