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LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1981 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from the Permanent  
Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document  
of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali TEKAIA  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Letter dated 17 March 1981 from the Permanent Observer of  
the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I am requested by Chairman Yasser Arafat to draw your attention to the recent Israeli attempts to consolidate their illegal presence on occupied Palestinian lands. Two so-called local governments were established in Maale Ephraim, north of Jericho, and in Ariel and Elkana. Similar bodies are shortly to be established in Kiryat Arba adjacent to Hebron and in Zionist settlements north of the Dead Sea.

There is a blatant attempt under the auspices of the Chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, Ariel Sharon, and Matityahu Drobless, co-chairman of the World Zionist Organization's settlement department, to convert the illegal Zionist settlements into "self-governing" townships. The primary aim is the speedy expansion of settlements and the enlargement of the Jewish population in order to create "facts" that a Labour Government could not very well reverse should it be elected into office in June. According to Drobless, 400 new housing units will be built in the settlements to increase the Israeli Jewish "inhabitants" in the occupied Palestinian territories by an additional 4,000.

The Military Government claims that only "state" owned land will be utilized for these purposes; however, over 1,000 acres of Palestinian owned land has been seized. While the illegal seizure is being challenged in the Supreme Court by Palestinian land-owners, it is highly probable that the Israeli Government will engage itself in a variety of foot-dragging tactics to circumvent any decision, and will, as in the past, continue to encourage confiscation and expansion into additional Palestinian owned lands.

The simple truth remains that the acquisition of land in Palestine has always been a central objective of the Zionist movement. There is no Zionist settlement and there is no Zionist state without confiscating Palestinian land.

This latest affrontery to the efforts and decisions of the United Nations, in particular Security Council resolution 465, is in direct violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 which is applicable to all Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967. While the General Assembly agreed by its resolution 34/65 of 29 November 1979 the Camp David Accords as "having no validity", it is obvious that these latest Israeli measures are a direct consequence of the said Accords.

In drawing your attention to this gravely worsening situation I am requested to call upon you to take whatever action you may deem necessary to put an end to Israel's illegal land-grabbing.

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI  
Permanent Observer

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