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Item 64 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE
ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS
OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 9 April 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you the very profound concern of the Government of Jordan in consequence of the Israeli Government's decision, adopted on 29 March 1981, to give the "green light" to its Minister for Energy, Mr. Yitzhak Modai, to proceed forthwith with the implementation of the final plan for the construction of a 67 mile-long canal to link the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea in the Jordan Valley.

The plan adopted in its final form envisages the digging of the canal from Kateef in the occupied Gaza Strip across and beneath the mountainous terrain in the southern part of the occupied West Bank and up to a point known as Mas'ada (Masada) overlooking the south-west corner of the Dead Sea. The announced objective of the canal includes a hydroelectric plant near Masada to generate enough electric power to provide 7 per cent of Israel's energy requirements by the year 2000. The canal is also intended to bring enough water to a scattering of sites for five nuclear energy plants for cooling purposes as well as electricity generation.

Jewish fund raisers in the United States have already pledged \$100 million annually for the next several years to finance the project, the cost of which is estimated at \$800 million. Similar fund raising is currently under way in the United Kingdom by a specially-formed company under the chairmanship of Sir Isaac Walfston, the owner of a well-known chain of stores in London and other European countries.

His Excellency Mr. Mudar Badran, Prime Minister of Jordan, gave a statement before the National Consultative Council immediately upon the adoption by the Israeli occupying authorities of this project, denouncing it in the strongest terms and describing its far-reaching political, economic, ecological, agricultural

* A/36/50.

and military dimensions with its far-reaching impact not only upon the occupied Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, but also on the entire region. The Israeli authorities are already determined to proceed forthwith with the implementation of this multi-purpose act of aggression which poses grave dangers to all countries and peoples concerned and, not least, the people of Jordan and the people of Palestine.

The Government of Jordan, which views the Israeli project with the utmost gravity, has already raised the issue at the seventy-fifth session of the Council of the League of Arab States during its meeting on 23 March 1981.

The Council of the League of Arab States, while deploring this aggressive move against the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, in flagrant violation of international law and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, 1/ adopted the following statement:

"The Council, while bringing to the attention of world public opinion the gravity of this project, which Israel attempts to cover up as a purely economic proposition, wishes to affirm that the proposed project is intended to bring about fundamental geographical, demographical, ecological, environmental and economic transformations, with the most deleterious impact upon the entire region and in particular the inalienable rights of the Arab people in Palestine and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

The statement adds that the project has the capability to desolate extensive areas of agricultural lands in the East and West Banks of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip, which are currently the principal or only source of livelihood to the owners of those lands, as well as to destroy the precious minerals which lie below them. The project will also inundate ancient Christian monasteries and holy places along the banks of the River Jordan, in addition to inundating at whim the entire region of the Jordan Valley by raising the water level of the Dead Sea to a height which would breach its banks and inundate the irrigated areas in the Jordan Valley and the tourist resorts, as well as the vast industrial chemical projects which are nearing completion along the southern tip of the Dead Sea. It is totally incredible that such a devastating price would be inflicted upon the occupied territories as well as upon Jordan as a whole to satisfy a small 7 per cent of Israel's energy needs.

The Council of the League of Arab States therefore cannot but inescapably come to the conclusion that the project envisions, among its top priorities, military as well as colonization plans which threaten the entire region and impose a further fait accompli in the chain of the continuing Zionization of the Holy Land and the total and irrevocable annexation of the occupied Arab territories.

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

Fully cognizant of its far-reaching implications, the Council of the League of Arab States calls upon all countries in the world to oppose with unwavering vigor this grave and aggressive act.

The Council of the League of Arab States likewise calls upon all States and peoples to refrain from providing any assistance or support, financial or technical, in the process of its implementation; it declares that failing to heed this call would be regarded as a hostile act against the rights of the Arab nation and would be countered by all effective measures to safeguard those rights.

The Council of the League of Arab States likewise regards the Israeli fiendish plan as an aggression against international legitimacy and a violation of all the rules and conventions embodied in international law governing relations amongst nations.

The Government of Jordan regards the Israeli decision to proceed forthwith with the implementation of this project, which starts in the occupied territories of the Gaza Strip and traverses the breadth of the occupied West Bank and would take from 8 to 10 years to implement, as definitive additional evidence that Israel has no intention of withdrawing from the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, in accordance with the numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

While the Government of Jordan deserves its right to bring up the matter for consideration in the Security Council, it would be deeply appreciated if this communication could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 64 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
