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LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1976 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF MEXICO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With regard to the debate on "the Middle East problem including the Palestinian question", which the Security Council is to continue on Monday 12 January 1976 in accordance with its resolution 381 (1975) of 30 November 1975, on instructions from my Government I have the honour to refer to the statement made by Mexico at the 2441st plenary meeting of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, on 15 December 1975, during the consideration of the resolutions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

In that statement it was stressed that the position of Mexico regarding the item under consideration is a faithful reflection of an international policy which, like ours, is based on unchanging principles of permanent validity which coincide essentially with the principles of the United Nations Charter, such as the sovereign equality of States, self-determination of peoples, prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations and non-intervention. Mexico then went on to state that its position could be summed up as follows:

"First, Mexico is convinced that, as the General Assembly declared ten days ago in its resolution 3414 (XXX) of 5 December 1975, 'the present situation prevailing in the Middle East continues to constitute a serious threat to international peace and security' and that for that reason urgent measures should be taken in order to ensure full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the questions of the Middle East and Palestine, Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) being particularly important in that respect.

"Secondly, Mexico is equally convinced of the need for a speedy solution of the problem by the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from all the territories occupied in 1967; by recognition of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and right to live in peace of all States in the area, including, of course, Israel, and by the exercise by the Palestinian people of their legitimate national rights.

"Thirdly, Mexico considers that the participation of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in the debate to be resumed on 12 January 1976 in the Security Council on the Middle East problem including

the Palestinian question, 'taking into account all relevant United Nations resolutions', in accordance with the decision taken by the Council itself on 30 November 1975, is essential if there is to be any reasonable prospect of a just and lasting settlement of this serious problem, based on a comprehensive solution of the problem under United Nations auspices."

We venture to hope that the members of the Security Council will share our belief that the three basic points I have recapitulated above are axiomatic. Equally obvious and incontrovertible are the fact that the question of the Middle East at present constitutes the most serious potential threat to world peace and security, the fact that in order to eliminate once for all the dangers inherent in it a comprehensive solution to the problem is necessary, and the fact that such a solution will be attainable only within the framework of "all relevant resolutions of the United Nations" - in the words used by the Council itself - through a dialogue in which the spokesmen both of Israel and of the Palestinian people participate.

In this connexion, we believe that the following points must be borne very much in mind:

Firstly, that the permanent members of the Security Council, by virtue of the privileged position granted to them by the Charter, have primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, which makes it imperative that they should demonstrate by action that they do not wish the relevant resolutions of the United Nations to remain indefinitely a dead letter.

Secondly, that there is no justification for continued attempts by any of the parties directly involved in this conflict to ignore an undertaking which figures prominently among the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and which requires the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations deriving from the Charter itself.

In requesting you to have this letter reproduced as an official document of the Security Council, I would inform you that the Government of Mexico reserves the right to participate in the Council's debate on the item in question, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter and of the rules of procedure of the Council, should it deem such participation desirable in view of the course of the debate.

(Signed) Alvaro CARRANCO AVILA
Alternate Representative
Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Mexico
to the United Nations
