

# UNITED NATIONS



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY SECURITY COUNCIL

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-first session  
Item 26 of the preliminary  
list of items\*  
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-first year

Letter dated 12 March 1976 from the Permanent Representative of  
Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Aside from my being the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations I am writing Your Excellency in my capacity as the Chairman of the Islamic Conference, which consists of 41 members.

I have conveyed to the members of the Islamic Conference that met today the report which Your Excellency gave to me regarding your laudable efforts in connexion with what the Muslim world has considered a sacrilege of the Holy Places in Jerusalem and other religious sites in occupied Palestine.

I am sure Your Excellency will be interested to read the enclosed statement, which I was authorized by members of the Islamic Conference to submit for your prompt attention, and may I ask you to be kind enough to have it circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 26 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session, and of the Security Council. 1/

Allow me to thank Your Excellency once again for the attention you have given this matter, which is of deep concern to all the people of the Muslim world.

(Signed) Jamil M. BAROODY  
Ambassador of Saudi Arabia  
to the United Nations  
Chairman of the Islamic Conference

\* A/31/50.

1/ A similar letter was addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of March 1976, Ambassador Thomas S. Boya, requesting that the attached document be brought to the attention of the Security Council.

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Annex

Statement by members of the Islamic Conference concerning recent developments in occupied Arab Jerusalem

The members of the Islamic Conference at the United Nations met to consider the grave situation in Jerusalem resulting from the recent Israeli violations of Security Council resolutions concerning the status of Jerusalem and the profanation and desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque - 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 271 (1969) and 298 (1971) - and General Assembly resolutions 2253 (ES-V) and 2254 (ES-V), and express their deep concern about the present situation in Jerusalem and in particular the ruling of the Magistrate Court, to the effect that Jews have the right to pray in Al-Aqsa Mosque. The members of the Islamic Conference cannot but view this ruling in the context of the systematic and persistent policy of the Israeli occupation authorities to change the status of Jerusalem and gradually obliterate the Moslem and Christian heritage in the Holy City.

This deliberate policy aims at radically changing the religious, cultural, demographic and political status of occupied Jerusalem and undermining the spiritual values of the Holy City and its universal sacred character. The attitude of Israel in this matter is reflected in the statement made by the Chief Rabbi of Israel, as published in the Israeli daily Ma'ariv on 22 July 1969, in which "he appealed to all Jews in Israel and elsewhere to observe as usual the Jewish traditions of mourning in remembrance of the destroyed Temple of Solomon. The Chief Rabbi drew the attention of world Jewry to the fact that Israeli occupation of the Old City of Jerusalem did not return to the Jews their Temple. They had no alternative but to continue spending that sorrowful day in fasting and prayer until the Temple was reconstructed in the courtyard of Al-Haram Al-Sharif."

The Israeli policy of Judaization of the Holy City is being implemented inter alia by the following:

1. Expropriation of Arab land in Jerusalem and setting up of new Jewish quarters on this land culminating in the recent project of building 30,000 housing units in and around Jerusalem by 1980 with 3,000 units to be completed by the end of this year;
2. Attempted alienation of the indigenous Arab population from their history, civilization and culture by the Israelization of educational programmes and curricula;
3. Exploitation of the economy of occupied Jerusalem and its absorption within the Israeli economy;
4. Measures designed to compel the Arab population of Jerusalem to leave their homes and property;
5. Suppression of Islamic and Christian heritage and institutions.

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The members of the Islamic Conference take note with appreciation of the efforts made by Dr. Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in the present case as a result of the representations made to him by the Islamic Group.

They request the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General to keep under urgent attention the situation in Jerusalem and in the rest of the occupied territories which might be further aggravated. They reaffirm that immediate steps must be taken in order to stop such violations and defiance of the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on Jerusalem and to rescind measures already taken by the occupation authorities in violation of these resolutions.

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