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LETTER DATED 14 APRIL 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF OMAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

As the Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of April, and with reference to the letter dated 13 April 1976, addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Acting Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations (see document S/12052), I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that I was asked by the Group to contact you to express our worries and deep concern about the continuous violations by Israel of the many United Nations resolutions and of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in acquiring land secretly in the occupied Arab territories.

An article published in The New York Times of 12 April 1976 reports that since 1967 Israel has been acquiring Arab land in the occupied territories in order to establish settlements on it; it is clear from this article and from statements made by Israeli authorities to the author of the article that there have been widespread covert acquisitions of Arab land either through deals by private and government agencies, all made in one direction from Arab seller to Israeli buyer, or through expropriation. It is estimated that the Israeli Land Authority controls 80,000 acres of land belonging to Palestinian refugees on which they are establishing many Israeli settlements.

The continuation of this policy, besides being in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and of various United Nations resolutions, will only serve to increase the resistance it has engendered and will consequently be an obstacle to the efforts being made to ensure a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and will endanger world peace and security.

Excellency, the Arab Group asked me to draw your attention to this dangerous situation and to request that you send one of your representatives or a representative of the Committee to investigate Israeli practices or your representative in Jerusalem in order to look into the matter and report to you the facts and findings of this investigation of the current situation. We hope, Excellency, that you will let us know the results of these findings.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Kamal M. HAGRAS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Oman
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group