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LETTER DATED 2 MAY 1979 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I feel it my duty as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to express serious concern over the recent decision of the Government of Israel to authorize the establishment of two new settlements in the occupied Arab territories in defiance of widely held international opinion. The fact that this decision is announced within a few weeks of the adoption of Security Council resolution 446 (1979), calling on Israel to desist from such policies, clearly demonstrates the intransigence and the cynical attitude of Israel towards international opinion and the concept of fundamental human rights.

This decision is completely incompatible with the recommendations of this Committee, which have been repeatedly endorsed by the General Assembly. In addition, it constitutes a violation of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of Security Council resolutions 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, of the statements made on behalf of the Security Council by its President at the 1922nd meeting, on 26 May 1976, and the 1969th meeting, on 11 November 1976, and of General Assembly resolutions 32/5 of 28 October 1977 and 33/113 of 19 December 1978.

Such action can have no legal validity and merely serves to aggravate the tensions in the area and undermine efforts to promote a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem.

Statements ascribed to Israeli Cabinet Ministers confirm that Israel intends to continue to pursue this policy of establishing further settlements in complete disregard of world and international law and practice. One such statement ascribed to Mr. Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Agriculture, indicates that 27,000 settler families will be moved over the next three years into the West Bank and is particularly disturbing in that it has been learned at the same time that Mr. Sharon is to take part in the negotiations on Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. A statement of this kind can only serve to compromise Israel's standing in these negotiations.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Médoune FALL
Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the
Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People