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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 28 April 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement by TASS dated
26 April 1982.

I request you, Sir, to circulate the text of this statement as an official
document both of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the preliminary list, and
of the Security Council.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

* A/37/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement by TASS

On 25 April there occurred a farcical event, in which the participants in the anti-Arab deal concluded in Camp David made much ado about the "return" of the Sinai peninsula to Egypt.

The leading circles in the Soviet Union consider that the "Sinai operation", just like the other consequences of the Camp David agreement, bears no relation at all to the task of establishing a just and stable peace in the Middle East.

Israel is not simply returning the Sinai, which was seized from Egypt in a war of aggression. Its return was bought by Sadat's betrayal of common Arab interests, including and above all the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and the creation of their own State.

Furthermore, Egypt received, in addition to the Sinai, American troops from the rapid deployment force. This means, if one considers the heart of the matter, that Israeli occupation of the Sinai has been replaced by American occupation and that the United States has secured a beach-head for direct intervention in the affairs of the States of the Middle East and contiguous areas.

The anti-Arab nature of the "changing of the guard" in the Sinai is not mitigated in the least by the fact that the American soldier there will be leaning on the shoulders of the soldiers of certain United States allies in the North Atlantic bloc. The peoples of the Middle East clearly remember how the colonial Powers used to lord it over their lands and the Arabs know better than anyone how much time and effort was expended in order to drive them out.

Washington and Tel Aviv make no secret of the fact that the replacement of Israeli occupation forces in the Sinai with American ones in no way means an end to the Camp David policy. On the contrary, their intentions are to pursue with redoubled effort the policy of making separate anti-Arab deals. They want to impose on the Palestinians of the West Bank of the Jordan and of the Gaza region their notorious plan for "administrative autonomy", which is actually designed to prevent the creation of an independent Palestinian State and to pave the way for Israel's annexation of Palestinian lands.

The peoples of the Middle East, who reject these colonialist designs, demand a just and lasting peace which would guarantee the return of the Arab lands seized by Israel, enable the Palestinians to realize their inalienable right to the creation of their own State and allow all States of this region to live in peace and security.

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These aspirations of the peoples of the Middle East are met by the proposal put forward at the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union for the convening of an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization. This proposal, which can contribute to the cause of a Middle Eastern settlement on to a realistic and constructive path, is still valid.
