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LETTER DATED 4 MAY 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention that on 22 March 1979, the Security Council adopted resolution 446 (1979). Paragraph 4 of the said resolution reads as follows:

"Establishes a Commission consisting of three members of the Security Council to be appointed by the President of the Council after consultation with the members of the Council, to examine the situation relating to the settlements in the territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem".

In a note dated 3 April 1979 (S/132/8), the President of the Council stated that the Commission was established and composed of Bolivia, Portugal and Zambia, with Portugal assuming the Chairmanship.

The Commission organized its first visit to the area, namely, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt in May 1979. Israel refused the Commission any access to the occupied territories. In its report (S/13450, dated 12 July 1979) submitted to the Security Council, the Commission revealed that 133 Israeli settlements were established in the occupied territories, leaving the area of Jerusalem and the West Bank with a population of 90,000 Israeli settlers. The land seized by the Israeli authorities as a whole reached 27 per cent of the occupied West Bank and the quasi-totality of the Golan Heights.

On 20 July 1979, the Security Council adopted resolution 452 (1979), calling upon the "Government and people of Israel to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem". The Commission presented to the Security Council its second report (S/13679, of 4 December 1979). In that report, the Commission concluded that "Israel's policy of settlement, relentlessly pursued in spite of all Security Council decisions and appeals, is incompatible with the pursuit of peace in the area and that it is bound to lead to further deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories". It also recommended that the "Security Council adopt effective measures to prevail on Israel to cease the establishment of settlements in occupied territories and to dismantle the existing settlements accordingly".

On 1 March 1980, the Security Council adopted resolution 465 (1980), in which the Council "accepts the conclusions and recommendations contained in the above mentioned report of the Commission".

Following the second visit to the area in September 1980, the Commission prepared its third report (S/14268, of 25 November 1980). In that report, the Commission observed that the extent of the land confiscated for the purpose of establishing settlements had increased from 27 per cent of the total area of the West Bank in May 1979 to 33.3 per cent in September 1980. The Commission also found that "correlation exists between the establishment of Israeli settlements and the displacement and dispossession of Arab Palestinians".

More than 17 months have passed since the Commission unanimously adopted its report on 25 November 1980. Moreover, the States of which the Commission was composed are no longer members of the Security Council. Therefore, it would be highly appreciated if the Security Council were to address itself to the above-mentioned report and to the reconstitution of the membership of the Commission to continue with its mandate.

I hope, Excellency, that these two matters will be given utmost consideration, in view of the grave situation in the occupied territories. I would also appreciate the circulation of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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