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QUESTION OF PALESTINE  
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 23 September 1982 from the Permanent Representative of  
Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a statement by His Excellency General  
Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, condemning the  
massacre of the Palestinian refugees at the Sabra and Shatila camps in West Beirut.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have this letter and the President's  
statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda  
items 31 and 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. Shah NAWAZ  
Ambassador and  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement issued on 19 September 1982 by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan condemning the massacre of the Palestinian refugees at the Sabra and Shatila Camps in West Beirut

Reports of the massacre of innocent Palestinians in Beirut have caused profound grief to the people of Pakistan and filled us with a deep sense of shock and horror.

The Government and people of Pakistan join me in condemning the pre-meditated atrocities perpetrated against defenceless men, women and children in the refugee camps of Shatila and Sabra, which constitute a crime against humanity. The barbarism of the Israeli aggressor is responsible for the continuing genocide of the Palestinian people and demands the unreserved condemnation of the entire world community.

In the face of this tragedy, Pakistan calls upon the United Nations to fulfil its foremost obligations to uphold the basic human rights and to maintain world peace and security. In this context, the five Permanent Members of the Security Council bear primary responsibility for taking immediate and effective steps to prevent any further shedding of Palestinian blood and to take every measure required to restrain Israeli forces from flouting all precepts of human conduct and international law.

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