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Thirty-fourth session

Item 51 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO

INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING

THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF

THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 5 March 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

As Chairman of the Islamic Conference, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration issued following the meeting of Islamic States Members of the United Nations, which was held at United Nations Headquarters on Friday, 2 March 1979.

On behalf of the Islamic States Members of the United Nations, I should be grateful if you would have this Declaration issued as a document of the General Assembly, under item 51 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

For the Ambassador and by order

(Signed) Henri Antoine TURPIN
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

* A/34/50.

Annex

Declaration issued on 2 March 1979 by the Islamic States
Members of the United Nations

1. The Islamic States Members of the United Nations convened a meeting on 2 March 1979 to deliberate on the most ominous and accelerating erosion of the Islamic and Arab status of Holy Jerusalem, in consequence of the Israeli occupation authorities' systematic and deliberate policy and practice of colonization and despoilation in the Holy Land.
2. The conferees made an intensive factual review and appraisal of the consequences stemming from the Israeli occupation authorities' ongoing, unabated and heedless policies in Jerusalem and its environs over the past 11 years, designed to alter and eventually to obliterate the religious, historical and national character of the Holy City of Jerusalem.
3. The review disclosed a situation of alarming proportions, which Member States can only view with the most profound concern and disquiet. The situation is insufferable and totally unacceptable inasmuch as it poses a serious threat to one of their foremost religious and historical legacies. Furthermore, it deprives the 800 million citizens of their respective States, and others in many friendly States, of their inalienable and legitimate rights to perform one of their pivotal religious functions, which they have been exercising for 1,400 years.
4. The occupied Holy City of Jerusalem has been reduced, since 1967, to little more than a tiny enclave, if not a ghetto. It has been expanded 15-fold through Israeli colonization and expansion and has been encircled from all sides, stretching from the doorsteps of Bethlehem in the south to the doorsteps of the town of Ramallah in the north, a distance of 40 kilometres. To the west, Jerusalem has been encircled by a series of Israeli settlements in the hilly ranges of the occupied West Bank, and to the east by a newly constructed industrial town at Khan ul-Ahmar.
5. Even more alarming, in strictly religious and historical terms, is the demolition of sacred historical sites in the old city of Jerusalem and, in particular, the unceasing deep diggings below the foundations of the Aqsa Mosque and adjacent to the historical mosques and centuries-old centres of religious learning in this sacred area. The 1,400-year-old Holy Ibrahimi sanctuary in Hebron has almost been transformed into a synagogue.
6. It is the considered opinion and firm conviction of the Islamic States Members of the United Nations participating in this meeting that, if the current Israeli policies and practices persist in the City of Jerusalem and its environs, then the whole Islamic and Arab legacy in Jerusalem will, in the near future, be almost totally erased, and the indigenous Palestinian citizens of Jerusalem - both Muslim and Christian Arabs, who are the constituency, sentinel and living

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embodiment of both Islam and Christianity - will be squeezed out by a process of calculated attrition, leaving behind empty mosques and churches to serve the Israeli aggressors' penchant for tourist attractions.

7. The Islamic States Members of the United Nations find themselves impelled to give a solemn warning that under no circumstances will the 800 million adherents of the Islamic faith tolerate such a flagrant aggression and travesty against one of their holiest cities and historical legacies.

8. In the light of the aforementioned considerations:

First, Islamic Member States view with the most profound concern the current ongoing process of emasculation and colonization by the Israel occupation authorities in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Second, the Islamic Member States regard all such measures which have been taken so far, and which might be taken in the future, illegal and in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, a/ as well as of the principles and precepts of international law and United Nations resolutions. Such being the case, all these measures are null and void and should be rescinded immediately.

Third, the Islamic Member States express their countries' determination to exert their utmost and to restore, by all means, the Islamic and Arab status of Jerusalem and to undo the despoilation which the Israeli occupation has carried out in the Holy City.

Fourth, in expressing their resolve to redeem occupied Jerusalem, the Islamic Member States wish to emphasize that, by conviction, they are averse to any form of religious or racial intolerance and staunchly believe in the equality of all peoples, regardless of religious affiliation. But the Islamic States and peoples are equally vehemently opposed to being discriminated against, or being denied their inalienable religious and historical rights and entitlements in Jerusalem, in consequence of Israeli claims to exclusivity and dominance.

Fifth, the Islamic Member States are unanimous in their firm belief that the redemption of Jerusalem can only be achieved through Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands and the restoration of the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions.

Sixth, the 42 Islamic States Members of the United Nations resolve to keep the situation and developments pertaining to Jerusalem under constant

a/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

and close scrutiny with a view to deciding what further steps should be taken to restore legitimacy and normalcy to Holy Jerusalem, whose alienation would pose a serious threat to world peace and security.

Seventh, the Islamic Member States strongly support the request of the Government of Jordan and other Arab States to convene an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the continually deteriorating situation in the Holy Land.

Eighth, this Declaration shall be circulated to all Members of the United Nations and, in particular, to the Security Council, in the earnest hope that it will take prompt and effective action, including the application of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, to ensure compliance with its own Charter and resolutions on this most crucial subject.
