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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 27 April 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the note (No. 413) dated 25 April 1979 from the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations concerning the registration with the United Nations, in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter, of the Treaty of Peace concluded between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Israel, all its annexes and the additional agreement concerning the establishment of full autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, I would like to inform you, upon instructions from my Government, of the following:

1. The People's Assembly (the Egyptian Parliament) approved the Treaty on 10 April 1979, by an overwhelming majority of 328 votes in favour, 15 votes against and 1 abstention.

2. The Treaty was also subject to a plebiscite on 19 April 1979, and it was unanimously approved by 99.95 per cent of the voters. These results reflect the popular support of the principles and the merits, clearly stipulated in the Treaty, not only for Egypt but also in favour of the Arab cause and the Palestinian question.

3. The Treaty was concluded within the provisions of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), as indicated clearly in the preamble of the Treaty, which stipulates the urgent necessity to establish a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East in accordance with these two resolutions in all their parts.

4. The Treaty is also within the terms and obligations contained in the framework achieved at Camp David in September 1978 for establishing a comprehensive peace in the region, the resolution of the Palestinian problem

* A/34/50.

in all its aspects and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

5. The Treaty could serve as a solid basis and an appropriate model for application regarding the other occupied Arab territories. The conclusion of this Treaty is also in implementation of the principles of international law for establishing peaceful relations between States.

6. The principles and the terms included in the Treaty are within the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, agreed upon in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States which was unanimously approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session in 1970, and also enshrined in other international instruments within the United Nations or other international organizations.

7. The Treaty stipulates the exercise by Egypt of full and effective permanent sovereignty and control over its natural and all other resources, wealth and economic activities in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Arab territories.

8. The additional agreement attached to the Treaty of Peace stipulates the establishment of a Palestinian self-government with full autonomy at a later interim stage, in the course of the process of restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, according to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and its relevant resolutions. Egypt insisted on the linkage, confirming its position of principle that the Palestinian question is the crux of the Middle East problem. For that reason the linkage between the Treaty and the additional agreement is very essential in all the steps, objectives and targets of the process of realizing comprehensive and durable peace in this part of the world.

9. Egypt firmly believes that the United Nations has a major role to play in affirming the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the restoration of Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

I would like to stress that during the last 30 years Egypt did not hesitate to sacrifice the blood of its sons, its prosperity and welfare, and sustained untold sufferings for the Arab cause in general and the Palestinian cause in particular. Egypt also is determined, in spite of all the abuses directed against it, to continue in its firm position to defend the Palestinian cause in all international forums, especially at the United Nations. All sincere efforts must be concentrated for a speedy movement for a just solution to the Palestinian question and allowing the Palestinian people to exercise its right of self-determination and the establishment of its national authority on its own territory.

I kindly request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 24 and 25 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) A. Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
