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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Twenty-eighth year

Letter dated 3 November 1973 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 1 November 1973 by the Permanent Representative of Egypt (A/9273-S/11068).

The allegations contained in the Egyptian letter are baseless. The inhabitants of localities mentioned in it have left in the course of the fighting, as happens frequently in war. It was also during the fighting and as a result of it that the water supply to the city of Suez was damaged.

It is Egypt that is violating the cease-fire and it is persisting in these violations even as the present letter is being written. I have repeatedly drawn your attention to these Egyptian breaches of the cease-fire. My last letter on this was submitted to you earlier today (A/9279-S/11073).

It is, therefore, Egypt which having unleashed bloodshed on 6 October and thus having brought suffering and grief upon the civilian population, is now, by violating the cease-fire, aggravating further the tribulations of the inhabitants of the area.

It is obvious that the purpose of the groundless allegation, made on the basis of the aforesaid falsehoods, to the effect that Israel does not comply with the fourth Geneva Convention is merely to divert attention from Egypt's grave violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Instead of announcing its readiness to fulfil its elementary humanitarian obligations towards prisoners of war, Egypt tries to screen its deplorable conduct by flinging calumnies at Israel. This cannot mislead anyone. While Israel has expressed its full respect of the Geneva Conventions and scrupulously observes their provisions, Egypt openly and defiantly violates the Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

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Egypt's inhumane attitude is underscored by the fact that by its refusal to comply with the Geneva Convention it prevents the return to their homes of thousands of Egyptian prisoners of war detained by Israel.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations
