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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Twenty-eighth year

Letter dated 6 November 1973 from the Permanent Representative of
Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the nine member countries of the European Community today issued the following statement in Brussels concerning the situation in the Middle East.

"The nine Governments of the European Community have continued their exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East. While emphasizing that views set out below are only a first contribution on their part to the search for a comprehensive solution to the problem, they have agreed on the following:

1. They strongly urge that the forces of both sides in the Middle East conflict should return immediately to the positions they occupied on 22 October in accordance with resolutions 339 (1973) and 340 (1973) of the Security Council. They believe that a return to these positions will facilitate a solution to other pressing problems concerning prisoners of war and the Egyptian Third Army.

2. They have the firm hope that, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October, negotiations will at last begin for the restoration in the Middle East of a just and lasting peace through the application of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) in all of its parts. They declare themselves ready to do all in their power to contribute to that peace. They believe that those negotiations must take place in the framework of the United Nations. They recall that the Charter has entrusted to the Security Council the principal responsibility for international peace and security. The Council and the Secretary-General have a special role to play in the making and keeping of peace through the application of Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

* English version reissued for technical reasons.

3. They consider that a peace agreement should be based particularly on the following points:

- (i) The inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force;
- (ii) The need for Israel to end the territorial occupation which it has maintained since the conflict of 1967;
- (iii) Respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries;
- (iv) Recognition that in the establishment of a just and lasting peace account must be taken of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

4. They recall that according to resolution 242 (1967) the peace settlement must be the object of international guarantees. They consider that such guarantees must be reinforced, among other means, by the dispatch of peace-keeping forces to the demilitarized zones envisaged in paragraph 2 (c) of resolution 242 (1967). They are agreed that such guarantees are of primary importance in settling the over-all situation in the Middle East in conformity with resolution 242 (1967), to which the Council refers in resolution 338 (1973). They reserve the right to make proposals in this connexion.

5. They recall on this occasion the ties of all kinds which have long linked them to the littoral States of the south and east of the Mediterranean. In this connexion they reaffirm the terms of the declaration of the Paris Summit of 21 October 1972 and recall that the Community has decided, in the framework of a global and balanced approach, to negotiate agreements with those countries."

I should be grateful if you would have this letter issued as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Otto BORCH
Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations