



Distr.
GENERAL

A/9045
S/10882
14 February 1973

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Twenty-eighth session
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Twenty-eighth year

Letter dated 14 February 1973 from the Permanent Representative of
Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention that most serious damage has recently occurred in the holiest Muslim shrine in occupied Jerusalem, for which the Israeli authorities are directly responsible.

On 11 February 1973, one of the major interior walls of the Mosque collapsed. This wall, which is over two metres wide and is situated at the southeastern side of the Mosque, separates the Mosque of Omar from the Tomb of the Forty (Maqam Al-Arbaeen). It was in this same spot nearly four years ago, in August 1969, that certain perpetrators deliberately set fire to the Al-Aqsa Mosque in a suspicious set of circumstances causing substantial damage to this holiest of Islamic shrines.

The collapse of the wall, which threatens the whole structure of the Holy Mosque, was caused, according to expert engineering reports, by the following:

- (a) The cracks in the wall that resulted from the fire set to the Al-Aqsa Mosque under Israeli occupation in 1969;
- (b) Drilling and demolition activities that the occupying Israeli authorities have been undertaking underneath the Mosque under the pretext of "archeological excavations". These "excavations" have undermined the foundation of the wall which ultimately caused the collapse of the latter.

Expert reports reaching my Government indicate that, should these "archeological excavations" continue, they would cause the collapse of the other walls and ultimately the destruction of Al-Aqsa Mosque, one of the holiest places in Islam. Israel is still actively engaged in "excavations" underneath the southern and western walls of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Israeli authorities must halt forthwith all their destructive physical activities in and around the Holy places in occupied Jerusalem. The international community cannot stand by and watch while the Israeli authorities violate the holiness of Jerusalem and mutilate its physical structure, thereby defying successive and repeated Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on Jerusalem and destroying the basis and possibilities of peace in the area.

May I request Your Excellency to bring this letter to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories.

I shall be grateful if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

(Signed) Abdul Hamid SHARAF
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

