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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Twenty-eighth year

Letter dated 12 April 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 7 April 1973 (A/9055-S/10909) by the Permanent Representatives of Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The letter is a rehash of the stereotyped Arab propaganda allegations regarding the situation in Israeli-administered territories. These allegations are belied by the known realities of the situation, witnessed and reported not only by neutral observers but also by the hundreds of thousands of Jordanian, Egyptian, Syrian and other Arab nationals who have visited these areas in recent years.

Of particular interest is the following comment in an article by Lord Caradon, published in The Times on 1 March 1973, after his recent visit to Middle East countries:

"... The result, indeed the achievement, of the occupation of the West Bank has been to show that not only boundaries between the Arabs and the Israelis are important, relationships are too. That is no mean achievement, and tribute should be paid to all who have laboured to bring this about, not least, for instance, Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem."

The contrast between the recriminations contained in the aforesaid letter from the Arab representatives to the United Nations and the real situation is illustrated, for example, by the authorization given on 13 March 1973 by the Israeli authorities, in line with the policy of encouraging the advancement of Arab education and culture, to establish the first Arab university on the West Bank.

* A/9000.

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With regard to the question of transfer of land in the territories, I should like to draw attention to the following statement issued by the Israel Government spokesman on 8 April 1973:

"The Government has taken note of the Prime Minister's statement that as no proposals had been submitted to the cabinet for a vote to modify the existing procedure regarding the transfer of land in the territories, there is no change in the situation obtaining since 1967 in accordance with the relevant Government regulations and the instructions by the Minister of Justice thereunder."

The fact that representatives of the three Arab States found it appropriate to affix their signatures to a joint letter containing an empty propagandistic outburst against Israel appears to indicate that all three States desire, at this time, to divert attention from the Arab refusal to enter into any meaningful dialogue with Israel that could lead to understanding and agreement.

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
