



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/10278*
30 July 1971

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 JULY 1971 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to documents A/8344 and S/10271 containing the letter addressed to you on 21 July 1971 by the Permanent Representative of Israel, in which he refers to the interview published in Témoignage Chrétien of Paris on 13 August 1970.

It is obvious that the representative of Israel cannot refute the charges made against the Israeli authorities by Professor Shahak in the course of the interview, namely:

- the arbitrary arrest and detention of Arabs living under Israeli occupation,
- the eviction of all Palestinians from Palestine as the policy programme of Zionist Israel,
- the expansionist policy of the Zionist Israeli leaders,
- the racial and religious bigotry rampant in Israeli officialdom.

Unable to deny the specific cases and Israeli actions mentioned, nor the Israeli sources quoted, in the interview, the representative of Israel attacks Professor Shahak personally, labelling him as a spokesman for "supporters of Arab belligerency against Israel"; a most ridiculous charge, since the man interviewed is evidently concerned about the plight of a people under foreign occupation who have lost all their human rights along with their country. But then perhaps it is typical of the Zionist colonialist-militaristic mentality, which visualizes the

* Also issued under the symbol A/8347.

Zionist occupation of Palestine as "liberation", to regard any attempt on the part of the Palestinians to regain their usurped rights as "belligerency". It is gratifying to see that the Israeli representative, having no more to say, indulges himself in making tangential remarks about the nature of the régime in Iraq and what he considers Iraq should adopt as the criteria for "reticence"; words which are entirely irrelevant to the subject in hand, namely, Israeli practices affecting the Arabs under Israeli occupation. The interview in Témoignage Chrétien, unlike the letter of the Israeli representative, is highly pertinent. The fact that it was published a year ago does not detract from its validity - since all available information from the occupied territories - specifically recent Israeli actions in Gaza - indicates that Israel has intensified its repression in order to maintain its occupation.

On the other hand such a response from Israel comes as no surprise to anyone reading through the letters addressed to you recently by the Israeli representative. States, international organizations, religious leaders, impartial observers and in fact all those who protest Israeli practices in the occupied territories, are automatically labeled as mere "disseminators of falsehoods". The members of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories are further libelously branded as "tools of Arab propaganda".

Israel's intransigence and outright contempt towards world public opinion and international conventions governing the rights of peoples under foreign occupation are nowhere more glaringly manifest than in occupied Jerusalem. Israel is openly and aggressively bent on "creating facts" in and around the Old City, in defiance of Security Council resolutions and the deep concern of Governments, statesmen, public figures and the world press, notwithstanding the claims made, on their behalf, by Abba Eban, whom the Israeli representative chose to quote in his letter of 20 July 1971 (A/8343, S/10270) denouncing the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories. In its issue dated 14 July 1971, The Times of London states in a leading editorial on Jerusalem that "Israel has one assumption about Jerusalem; it cannot be shared by the rest of the world", and concludes the article thus: "Obviously it is impossible to foresee universal agreement on Jerusalem without

agreement on the rest of Palestine damnosa haereditas. But that is all the more reason for holding back on actions which in the longer run Israelis themselves will probably regret no less than will the millions of others who rightly feel that Jerusalem belongs to them too."

Even Israel's staunchest supporter, the United States of America, had to admit that Israel is violating the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War by Israeli policies in occupied Jerusalem. (Statement made by C.W. Bray III, State Department spokesman, as reported in The New York Times of 6 June 1971.)

Israel's leaders would, in utter cynicism, have the international community condone territorial expansion through military conquests and welcome foreign occupation as a gesture of munificence bestowed upon the indigenous population.

Inasmuch as "self-hatred", of which the representative of Israel accuses Professor Shahak, implies the stirrings of human conscience, no one can blame the leaders of Israel for being immune to it. However, it would seem that "self-hatred" is a great deal less destructive than perpetual hatred of others to the extent of bigotry. Bernard Levin writes in The Times of London on 13 July 1971 the following:

"By the waters of Thames I sat down and wept, when I heard what fools they were making of themselves in Zion. At the very moment at which Herr Scheel, Foreign Minister of Federal Germany, was visiting Israel, the head of Israel Radio had to apologize for accidentally allowing a few bars of the music of Wagner and Richard Strauss to be heard on his service, contrary to the prohibition on the playing of these two composers."

When not only the dead, but even works of art cannot escape the Zionists' vindictiveness, who but the representatives of Israel would dare to speak of "manifestations of freedom of thought and expression", in that ill-begotten State?

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

(Signed) Talib EL-SHIBIB
Permanent Representative of Iraq
to the United Nations
