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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Twenty-seventh year

Letter dated 3 April 1972 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 29 March 1972 by the Permanent Representative of Egypt (A/8674-S/10582).

The letter constitutes a virtual admission of the pitiful coarseness of Egyptian propaganda. Though it purports to be a reply to my letter of 21 March 1972 (A/8671-S/10570), it either completely ignores or distorts the statements of fact contained in that letter which exposed the unfounded nature of the Egyptian claims and allegations regarding the situation in Israel-administered areas. Instead of dealing with the factual data in my letter, the Permanent Representative of Egypt simply reiterates those claims and allegations in a manner which confirms their flimsiness even more clearly.

Thus the Egyptian letter repeated the charge that Israel had deported 10,000 Sinai inhabitants. It expects this charge to appear plausible by referring to an Associated Press report on the evacuation of a number of bedouin from a different area - a closed zone in the Gaza-Rafah Strip, for reasons of security fully explained in my aforesaid letter.

A further example of the sad distortions with which the Egyptian letter abounds is the allegation reiterated by it that 44 houses had been demolished in Sinai. In the passion of falsification, the letter forgets that this Egyptian allegation refers to 44 houses in all of Sinai and spurts out the contention that the 44 houses were "in one section of a town".

The level of the argumentation put forward in the Egyptian letter and which characterizes Egyptian propaganda in general is underscored by the letter's assertion that acts of murder perpetrated by terror groups organized and supported

\* A/8700.

by Egypt and other Arab States and directed against innocent civilians, frequently women and children and, in the Gaza area, mostly Arab, should be considered as "resistance of the people under foreign occupation". This usurpation of ideals and terminology sanctified in the heroic struggle against nazism, in which the Jewish people of Israel and Europe played a significant role, has been resolutely rejected by the free international associations of anti-Nazi fighters. It is an affront to these freedom-fighters that Arab leaders and representatives, among them Egyptians and others who sympathized and even collaborated with Nazi Germany in the Second World War, now harbouring notorious Nazi criminals on the territory of their States and still supporting the Nazi attitude towards the Jewish people by such acts as the printing and dissemination of Hitler's racist Mein Kampf, should compare killers of women and little children with the underground movement that resisted and fought the Nazi war machinery. There is hardly any doubt that this sacrilegious vainglory on the part of the Egyptian Government and other Arab Governments has contributed to making Arab terror warfare, which resorts to such methods as the deliberate murder of children on school buses, the throwing of grenades into crowded market places or the hijacking of civil aircraft, synonymous with the kind of crimes of violence that enlightened mankind holds to be most abhorrent and despicable. No arrogant pretensions and empty slogans, such as those in the Egyptian letter, could mask that.

As for the true situation in Israel-administered areas, there are enough Arab sources to bear witness to the conditions obtaining therein, which are manifestly different from the picture that Egyptian propaganda attempts to paint.

Suffice it to quote the famous Egyptian writer Tewfik al-Hakim, who, in an interview published in the Christian Science Monitor of 22 March 1972, declared that Israel's presence in Sinai cannot be compared even to the period of British control. "No", he said, "this is not the kind of foreign occupation or the same national problem which the British occupation was for us earlier".

In this connexion, it is necessary to recall again the reign of terror and oppression to which the Gaza area had been subjected during the 19 years of Egyptian occupation, as described in my previous letters. This occupation will not be easily forgotten by the local Arab population and the world at large. It is obvious that it was not with a light heart that such official Arab sources as Radio Jeddah, on 10 March 1962, found it inevitable to compare this terror and oppression, the demolition of hundreds of houses, the measures of oppression against local inhabitants and refugees, the banishment of bedouin, the turning of the entire area into an almost hermetically closed Egyptian concentration camp, to "methods which the dictator Hitler used in the countries that he occupied".

For assistance to his unfounded argumentation, the letter from the Permanent Representative of Egypt turns to certain resolutions adopted in United Nations organs. Surely he must understand that only the uninitiated are unaware of the gulf that separates those texts from the truth on the situation prevailing

in the Middle East. Only the ignorant do not know that the disregard for facts, the crude abuses of equity, the borrowing of nomenclature applicable to totally different conditions, have deprived the resolutions cited in the letter of moral and juridical value. Only the most undiscerning will not remember that these resolutions have been adopted by the votes of the Arab States and those who automatically identify themselves with the Arab position irrespective of its merits.

In any event, it is clear that the votes of Arab inhabitants in the recent municipal elections on the West Bank reflect the situation in Israel-administered areas more correctly and more convincingly than the votes of Arab States and their followers in United Nations bodies.

Boisterous and perverted propaganda has never been a sign of a responsible and constructive attitude. The Egyptian Government would be well advised to abandon it in its pronouncements at home and abroad.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council and forwarded to the Commission on Human Rights.

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

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