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LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I regret to bring to Your Excellency's attention a serious Israeli violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 within the occupied territories in the area of Jericho.

Yesterday, 2 August 1970, at 10.30 hours local time Israeli tanks opened a barrage of artillery aiming at the Coptic Convent and other neighboring Convents, in the area near the baptism site, west of the River Jordan. The heavy artillery continued for one hour and a half.

As a result parts of the Coptic Convent including its main dome were destroyed. Other properties in the area including farms and crops were damaged.

This new Israeli irresponsible act adds to a long list of Israeli violations against holy shrines, religious, educational and medical institutions as well as freedom of worship and education.

In Al-Khalil (Hebron) the Israeli occupying authorities have been forcing the Moslem worshipers to evacuate the Ibrahim Mosque to make room for Jewish fanatics, and Israeli soldiers. Excavations were carried out against the will of the people and in direct violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

The Israeli occupying authorities took over the Mosque of Rachel Tomb, an Islamic Waqf on the Jerusalem-Al-Khalil road. In Nablus they took hold of Joseph's Shrine again an Islamic Waqf. A detailed account of Israel's violations and desecration of holy places are contained in documents S/8552, S/8864 and S/9774.

In Jerusalem the acts of valdalism and arson against the Church of The Holy Sepulchre and Haram El-Shareif (Aqsa Mosque) are still vivid with consternation in the minds of the people under Israeli occupation and millions of believers all over the world.

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Israel has violated every single article in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Hague Conventions of 1907. Its policy reflects a pattern of well calculated measures to change the character of the occupied territories. It becomes the duty of the Security Council to take effective measures to stop such acts and censure Israel accordingly.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Muhammad H. EL-FARRA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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