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LETTER DATED 28 MAY 1970 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention a new illegal Israeli measure of establishing Jewish settlements in occupied Jordan.

On 25 March the Israeli cabinet decided to settle 250 Jewish families in the city of Al-Khalil (Hebron). On that day Israel's Deputy Premier Yigal Allon announced in the parliament that Israel dare not let Al-Khalil (Hebron) remain "judenrein" (free of Jews). This same policy of establishing a Jewish town as opposed to an Arab one had been followed in the case of Nazareth after its occupation in 1948. This pattern of changing the character of towns and cities from Arab to Jewish is also planned and is being effected in Jerusalem in utter disregard of United Nations resolutions.

As for the projected Israeli settlement or "town" of Hebron, the occupying power has sealed off a considerable area of the lands of Al-Khalil and some villages in its environs. The Israeli military authorities declared a site of some 800 acres within the town itself, "a closed area". However, according to reports emanating from the scene about 30,000 dunums (some 8,000 acres) including lands belonging to villages in the area, were already sealed off.

The New York Times of 24 April 1970, judging from similar Israeli actions in the past reported that: "An undisclosed number of Arab families that live in the site will probably be told to leave."

Israeli officials pretended that the area was closed off "for military purposes". This prompted The New York Times of the same issue to report that "this type of action has previously been used to prepare for Jewish settlements in occupied Arab areas". But this pattern has always been a consistent Zionist and,

later on, Israeli policy. In November 1948, the villagers of Aqrah received an order from the occupying Israeli army to leave their village "for two weeks" until "military operations in the area were concluded". On 25 December 1951 - Christmas Day itself - Israeli army forces blew up all the houses in the village, all of whose inhabitants were Catholic Christians. The land of the village of Aqrah is now cultivated by two Jewish colonies: Allone and Shmonah in Western Galilee. Many other villages faced the same fate and what happened in 1951 is being repeated in the occupied territories. When asked whether there would also be settlements in towns such as Nablus, General Dayan replied, as reported by the London Times of 8 April 1970, that "he favoured settlements in various places in the occupied areas..." and that "he favours permanent settlements and not simply for planting trees and shrubs".

These Israeli policies and measures prompted the citizens of Al-Khalil and the surrounding villages to protest and reject such measures. The citizens of Al-Khalil are aware of the seriousness of the problem, especially because of their first encounter, in April 1968, of forcible Israeli settlers (S/8609). The Jordanian citizens of Jerusalem who drew on their own experience of the nature of such colonial Israeli measures also protested in written form. Members of the municipal council of the towns of Nablus, Tulkarem, Jenin and Qalqeliah added their protest and rejected such measures in one memorandum submitted to the military governor. The memorandum spoke of the dislodging of about 500 Jordanian families from a site closed off by the occupying power. The municipal council of Bethlehem also protested and rejected Israel's policy of colonization and settlement.

On the question of establishing Israeli settlements the Economist of 21 March 1970, reported:

"The Israelis' 'Allon Chain' of paramilitary settlements along the Jordan river is now virtually completed (there are five of them). They are busy building and developing land in the so-called "Etzion block" between Bethlehem and Hebron. The land which belongs to the villagers of Beit Nuba, destroyed a few days after the 1967 war, is now being diligently farmed by a kibbutz. A master plan has been published for 'metropolitan Jerusalem,' including Ramallah and Bethlehem, and a scheme has recently been announced to double Jerusalem's Jewish population by a crash programme of bringing all the new immigrants to Israel to the area."

The Economist added that the facts that Israel was continuing to create in the occupied territories were not the main reason for the growing hostility and

resistance. It was "the experience of the occupation itself, particularly the internal security measures, that has added to the bitterness of a people already living under a strong sense of injury".

The continued Israeli occupation together with acts of aggression committed within the occupied territories have created a situation fraught with danger. It becomes imperative that the Security Council should discharge its responsibilities and take effective measures in order to put an end to these continued Israeli acts of lawlessness.

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
