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LETTER DATED 12 FEBRUARY 1971 FROM THE PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVES OF JORDAN AND LEBANON TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In pursuance of the letter of 10 February 1971 (S/10111), addressed to you by the representatives of the fourteen Arab States Members of the United Nations, and in reference to the letter dated 11 February 1971 (S/10113) sent to the President of the Security Council by the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations regarding the intensified Israeli oppression against Palestinians in the Israeli occupied Gaza Strip, we have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention on behalf of the Group of Arab States excerpts from the contents of an Agence France-Presse dispatch published in the French newspaper Le Monde, dated 11 February 1971. This dispatch states under the title "Ten Israeli soldiers brought before a disciplinary tribunal for 'the unjustified use of violence'":

"An Israeli army spokesman announced at Tel Aviv on Tuesday evening that a total of ten soldiers had been brought before a disciplinary tribunal which was to try them for 'the unjustified use of violence and causing damage to dwellings' during the recent security operations in the Gaza Strip. He further announced that three Israeli soldiers had been tried for thefts committed in houses which they were searching.

"The spokesman also stated that, following those operations, seven injured Arabs from Gaza had been admitted to hospital and that some twenty others, less severely injured, had received treatment on the spot. The Israeli military spokesman had announced early in the evening that three Israeli officers, two of them of senior rank, had been given administrative reprimands for having failed to quell certain excesses committed by soldiers belonging to their unit."

The contents of that dispatch belie resoundly the summary and light manner in which the Israeli representative attempted to refute the facts which the Arab representatives have detailed in their letter. Due to the fact that the dispatch published by Le Monde refers to an official military source corroborating partly those facts, we would deem it appropriate for the United Nations organs to investigate the situation further and to bring the conclusions of their findings to the attention of the international community. Among other measures the Commission on Human Rights, due to convene shortly in Geneva, could perform a primary duty by alerting world public opinion to the oppressive acts committed by Israeli military forces against the helpless and defenceless Arab civilian population of the Gaza Strip.

We request that this document be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.<sup>1/</sup>

(Signed) Edouard GHORRA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
of Lebanon to the United Nations

(Signed) Muhammad H. EL-FARRA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
of Jordan to the United Nations  
Chairman of the Arab Group

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<sup>1/</sup> Also issued under the symbol A/3280.