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LETTER DATED 25 AUGUST 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose the text of the statement of the President of Pakistan with regard to the extensive damage caused by arson to the Al Aqsa Mosque, one of the holiest shrines of Islam.

I should be grateful if Your Excellency would have this letter circulated, together with its enclosure, as a document of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

(Signed) Agha SHAHI
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to
the United Nations

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN

The feelings of Muslims throughout the world have been deeply outraged and wounded by the fire in the Al Aqsa Mosque, which is their first Quibla and one of the holiest of Muslim shrines. It would be deplored and condemned by the followers of all faiths in the world. The international community must hold Israel fully responsible for this sacrilegious act. The Security Council should ensure Israeli compliance with its resolutions and observance of the universally recognized principles of civilized behaviour. Pakistan will concert action with other Muslim countries for safeguarding the Muslim Holy Places and for the restoration of Jerusalem. Muslim unity is a paramount necessity at this juncture.
