

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/9095
19 March 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 11 March 1969 by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Iraq (S/9068) as well as to my earlier letter to the President of the Security Council of 7 February 1969 (S/8997).

Wherever violations of human rights take place, the conscience of all decent people will be aroused, and the Governments which represent them will feel a moral duty, arising out of a sense of international responsibility and human solidarity, as well as out of principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, to give expression to their views. This is particularly the case when the victims are defenceless individuals or minority groups, who, through no fault of their own, are made scapegoats by the rulers of the country they live in for narrow purposes of domestic or foreign politics. When the persecutors invoke the name of a foreign country to buttress their false charges, that country has every right to defend its name. Moreover, that the truth should be known is in the interest of the entire international community.

What the Government of Iraq is trying to do is to assure itself a free hand to pursue its barbaric treatment of the Jews in Iraq by resisting international scrutiny of its gross misdeeds. It is understandable, therefore, that the deep and natural concern which these persecutions arouse among the Jewish communities in the world, and notably in Israel, where the majority of Jews who fled from previous persecutions in Iraq have found refuge, should cause embarrassment to the Government of Iraq.

Discrimination and oppression of Jews in one country or another have always kindled feelings of profound anxiety among the Jewish communities throughout the world. Jews regard themselves as duty bound to help fellow Jews, particularly when other nations and peoples have failed or have been unable to come to their

rescue, as was tragically demonstrated in recent decades in Europe and elsewhere. The State of Israel, as the Jewish State, follows and will continue to follow this noble and humane tradition.

This attitude has found understanding among nations that are concerned with the protection of human rights. These nations have also raised their voices in deploring the inhuman treatment of Jews by the authorities of Iraq.

The efforts of the Government of Iraq to shelter behind specious arguments and malicious legalisms cannot win for it any reprieve from objective world opinion.

The treatment of the Jews in Iraq by the Government of Iraq reflects that Government's attitude towards Israel. The Government of Israel cannot remain silent when political hostility towards itself becomes a pretext for cruelty against Jews simply as Jews.

As for the conditions of the Arab inhabitants in the territories under Israel's administration, when the citizens of Iraq, Jews or non-Jews, begin to enjoy, even only partially, freedom of movement, freedom of thought and expression, and personal security as they are enjoyed by those Arab inhabitants, Iraq will have made great progress toward democracy and the respect for human rights required by the United Nations.

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

Please accept, Excellency, etc.

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