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LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 21 March 1969 by the Permanent Representative of Jordan (A/7531, S/9102).

That letter is another manifestation of the close ties subsisting between the Government of Jordan and the terror warfare activities being conducted against Israel. The letter singles out for attention a number of security measures taken against those who had committed acts of murder and terror or aided and abetted them, and it distorts those measures, blowing them up out of all proportion.

The acts of murder and terror are directed against civilian objectives and are quite indiscriminate. In January and February of this year alone, there were no less than twenty-five cases of terror acts of this nature in which Arabs too were among the victims. In those two months alone, three Arabs were killed and thirty-six wounded, including women and children, in these terror activities. In this connexion, it will not be overlooked that those who are behind this warfare do not shrink from exploiting women by sending them forth and hiding behind them in the execution of terror acts and by inciting them to violations of law and order. That is what they did in a Jerusalem supermarket on 21 February 1969 and in the students' cafeteria of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on 6 March. One of the earliest instances of this since June 1967 occurred on 7 October of that year, when a number of young men and women sneaked a bomb into the Zion cinema during a crowded performance. Those responsible for provoking acts of terrorism also have no qualms about taking advantage of young persons, and even boys and girls, in carrying out their breaches of public order, acts of violence and terror endangering the lives of the youths and even leading to death and injury amongst them, as has happened in a number of instances in the past.

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The above-mentioned security measures are very much milder than any which were taken by the Jordanian authorities before June 1967 against Arab inhabitants of territories occupied by Jordan whenever public order was disturbed. In this connexion, I may point out that the communication of the Permanent Representative of Jordan vividly illustrates - what indeed is a matter of common knowledge - that the Arabs of Jerusalem and of the West Bank (and indeed of the Gaza Strip) today enjoy freedom of thought and freedom of expression far exceeding anything which they experienced under Jordanian occupation.

By virtue of general international law and by virtue of various resolutions of the Security Council, Israel is responsible for the security and well-being of all the civilian population in areas under its control and intends to continue to discharge its responsibilities in that regard.

I have the honour to request the circulation of this letter as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

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

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