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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. In view of all of the circumstances involved, I consider it my duty to call to the attention of the Security Council and of the General Assembly a note verbale which I found it necessary to address to the Government of Israel on Saturday, 20 April 1968. The note relates to the military parade which the Government of Israel intends to hold on Israel's Independence Day on 2 May. It is understood that much of this parade will be on the east side of the Armistice Demarcation Line and in part of what is known as the "Old City of Jerusalem".
2. Prior to dispatching the note I had become aware of concern in various quarters about the aggravating effect of such a parade in the Old City at this time on tensions in the area and on the efforts to achieve peaceful settlement of the exceedingly difficult problems in the relations between the Arab States and Israel. The note had the sole purpose of conveying to Israel authorities my own concern about this matter.
3. The text of the note in question is as follows:

"The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the reported decision of the Israel authorities to hold a parade in Jerusalem on 2 May 1968. From reports received the intended parade would appear to be of a military nature and much of it will take place on the east side of the Armistice Demarcation Line and in part of what is known as the 'Old City of Jerusalem'.

"The Secretary-General feels obliged to convey in this note the concern about these reports which he has already expressed orally in talks with the Permanent Representative of Israel. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize that the holding of a military parade in this area at the present time will almost surely cause an increase in tension in the Near East and could well have an adverse effect on the efforts now going forward to find a peaceful settlement of the problems in the area.

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"The Secretary-General's concern about the proposed military parade in that part of Jerusalem mentioned above also relates specifically to pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly (resolutions 2253 (ES-V) and 2254 (ES-V)) and of the Security Council (resolution 162 1961)), and as well to his position on the General Armistice Agreement between Israel and Jordan as stated in the introduction to his annual report, 16 June 1966-15 June 1967, chapter V, paragraph 43.

"The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representative of Israel the assurances of his highest consideration."

4. No reply to this note has so far been received from the Government of Israel.
