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LETTER DATED 25 JUNE 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to my letter to you of 31 May 1968^{1/} concerning the treatment of the Jewish communities in Arab States and, in particular, in Iraq.

In a letter addressed to you on 3 June 1968,^{2/} the Permanent Representative of Iraq expresses his not unexpected disapproval of my letter. The fact that the Jews of Iraq are subjected to discriminatory treatment and oppression remains, however, unrefuted. Indeed, the tragic situation in which this ancient community finds itself has been widely reported and has become the object of international concern.

It is a cynical and callous mockery of human rights to describe Hitlerite legislation directed against Iraqi Jews as "minor legislative measures" and to allege, as the Permanent Representative of Iraq does, that they are "designed to protect the interests of loyal Jewish citizens of Iraq".

The legislation promulgated against the Jews of Iraq since June 1967 follows upon a series of discriminatory laws adopted previously against the Jewish community on 9 March 1950, 10 and 22 March 1951 and 7 December 1963.

In addition to the arrests, dismissals from work and other measures of persecution mentioned in my letter of 31 May 1968, I should like to draw attention to the fanatical incitement against the Jewish community that is being conducted in the Iraqi governmental press, radio and television.

On 17 June 1967, for instance, the Iraqi Radio proclaimed:

"The Jewish cancer in Iraq constitutes a grave danger to our existence and the future of our country."

* Also issued under the symbol A/7114.

^{1/} A/7102, S/8607.

^{2/} A/7104, S/8610.

This kind of incitement is particularly ominous not only in view of the violence of which Iraqi Jews have been victims throughout the years, but also because of the treatment meted out to other minorities in Iraq. The campaign of genocide pursued against the Kurdish people is well known. Nor has the massacre of the Christian Assyrians in 1933 been forgotten.

Though a year has already elapsed since the hostilities of June 1967, many of the Jews detained by the Iraqi authorities in the wake of these hostilities remain under arrest. The others have been deprived of their livelihood. Their only salvation would be to leave Iraq. The Iraqi Government has, however, forbidden Jews to depart from the country.

This situation is of the utmost gravity and can no longer be left without international action.

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

Please accept, etc.

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