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LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1967 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ARAB GROUP OF STATES
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of August, to draw attention to the continued Israeli acts of vandalism, political intimidation, and economic pressure against the civilian population of the areas now under Israeli occupation with the aim of destroying the national character of these areas.

These acts include, inter alia, the mass expulsion of Arab inhabitants; the levelling of villages; the vengeful demolition of houses in many cities; the persecution, imprisonment, and exile of Jerusalem Arab leaders who, on behalf of the population, rejected the Israeli illegal measures for annexation of the city; the subjection of Arab prisoners of war to forced labour; the wide-scale looting of churches, historic sites, monuments and museums as well as banks, shops, and homes, especially during the curfew hours; the arbitrary interference in Christian and Muslim religious affairs, including the desecration and closing of some Holy Places at will.

Many of these acts were reported to the United Nations earlier by the representatives of Jordan, Syria, and the United Arab Republic.

This policy of oppression and psychological intimidation is supplemented by measures of economic repression. There is widespread unemployment where thousands of employees either in governmental or private organizations lost their income. Businessmen were forced to close down their shops and firms either because they could not meet the burden of excessive taxation imposed illegally and arbitrarily, or because their stocks were depleted.

The most serious feature of this latest series of Israeli acts is that they form a part of a systematic Zionist policy for further expansion to accommodate more Jewish emigrants. These measures have been lately intensified in order to intimidate civilians seeking to return to their homes and frustrate their attempts

to do so in violation of Security Council resolution 237 of 15 June 1967, which was unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly, calling on Israel "to ensure the safety, welfare, and security of these inhabitants of the areas where military operations have taken place and to facilitate the return of those inhabitants who have fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities". These measures also violate General Assembly resolutions 2253 (ES-V) and 2254 (ES-V), which declared the Israeli measures for the annexation of Jerusalem as invalid and called for their rescission. The recent statements of Dayan, Allon, Begin, and Eban, members of the Israeli cabinet, substantiate this systematic Zionist policy.

The continued inaction of the United Nations has encouraged the Israeli authorities to pursue this policy of depredation in the occupied territories with the consequences outlined above.

I request, on behalf of all members of the Arab Group, that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

I take this opportunity, etc.

(Signed) Jamil M. BAROODY
Ambassador
Chairman
of the Arab Group of States

