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LETTER DATED 17 JULY 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a communication from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Republic containing a note addressed by the United Arab Republic to the International Committee of the Red Cross dated 7 July 1967.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Mohamed Awad EL KONY
Permanent Representative of the United
Arab Republic to the United Nations

* Also issued as document A/6759.

10 July 1967

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General
United Nations

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the resolution of the Security Council of 14 June and the resolution of the General Assembly of 5 July relating to the suffering inflicted on civilians and prisoners of war as a result of the Israel armed aggression.

Enclosed is the text of a note addressed by the United Arab Republic to the International Committee of the Red Cross, dated 7 July 1967.

I would be grateful if you exert every possible effort in order to ensure the observance by Israel of its obligations in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the resolution of the Security Council adopted on 14 June 1967 and the resolution of the General Assembly of 5 July.

I would request you to circulate my letter and the enclosed note as an official document of the United Nations.

Please, Sir, accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mahmoud Riad
Minister for Foreign Affairs

7 July 1967

Note

To the International Committee of the Red Cross

1. The United Arab Republic has ascertained through accumulating and conclusive evidence that the Israeli authorities, in their last armed aggression, committed a number of inhuman acts against the captive, the wounded and the civilian victims of war. These acts constitute a flagrant violation of the elementary principles of humanity, and a serious breach of the laws of war and the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

2. Following is a list of examples of these inhuman acts and violations:

A. Bombardment of hospitals and ambulances in spite of the distinct markings of them, in violation of the provisions of: (1) article 19 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces, which prohibits attacking fixed establishments and mobile medical units of the medical services; (2) article 18 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, which stipulates that civilian hospitals "may in no circumstances be the object of attack, but shall at all times be respected and protected", and article 21 of the same Convention which stipulates that convoys of vehicles or hospital trains conveying the wounded must be protected.

B. Torture of captives, wounded and civilians by barbaric means, in violation of: (1) articles 13, 14 and 15 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, which oblige that prisoners of war must at all times be treated humanely, their health should never be seriously endangered and must be protected against acts of violation, insults and measures of reprisal; (2) article 17 of this Convention which prohibits "physical or mental torture, or any other form of coercion"; (3) articles 3 and 12 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces, which stipulate that the wounded and sick in armed forces should be treated humanely and prohibit committing acts of violence or torture against them; (4) articles 3 and 16 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War which stipulate that they should be "object of particular protection and respect".

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C. Extermination of great numbers of the wounded in violation of the provisions of: (1) articles 13 and 12 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces (reference made above); (2) article 50 of this Convention which prohibits killing of the wounded; (3) article 3 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, which demands special care and protection of the wounded; (4) article 13 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, which prohibits "any unlawful act or omission by the Detaining Power causing death of a prisoner of war in its custody".

D. Forcing great numbers of the members of our armed forces and of the civilians to walk long distances in the Sinai Desert, and keeping food, water and medical care from them, which caused the death of many in violation of: (1) the provisions of articles 3 and 12 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick (mentioned above); (2) article 50 of the same, which lists among the serious breaches, torture and inhuman treatment; (3) articles 3 and 55 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons which oblige the occupying Power to ensure food and medical supplies; (4) article 26 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, which stipulates that prisoners of war must be supplied with sufficient food and drinking water, and article 46 of the same Convention which stipulates that "the transfer of prisoners of war shall always be effected humanely".

E. Bombarding cities, villages, youth camps and schools with napalm bombs, in violation of article 3 of each of the above-mentioned Conventions, which prohibits acts of "violence to life and persons, in particular murder of all kinds, cruel treatment..."; (2) article 12 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick, which prohibits acts of violence and attempts on lives; (3) article 50 of this last Convention which prohibits premeditated acts causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health.

F. Detaining seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war in violation of the provisions of articles 109 and 110 of the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War which oblige the parties to the conflict "to send back to their own country, regardless of number or rank, seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war" and of article 15 of the Convention for the

Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick, which stipulates that "the parties to the conflict should collect the wounded and sick, protect them against ill-treatment and arrange for their transport and exchange".

G. Keeping names of captives and any information that may help identify each wounded, sick or dead in violation of the provisions of: (1) article 16 of the Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick, which stipulates that "parties to the conflict shall record as soon as possible, in respect of each wounded, sick or dead person... any particular which may assist in his identification", and that names of prisoners of war must be exchanged through the Information Bureau; (2) article 19 of the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, also stipulates that belligerent States must evacuate the prisoners of war far from the combat zone as soon as possible - a detailed system was given; (3) article 122 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, which stipulates that "each of the parties to the conflict shall institute an official Information Bureau for prisoners of war who are in its power". The Bureau is to forward any information concerning the prisoners of war by the most rapid means; (4) article 123 of the same Convention which stipulates that the parties to the conflict must extend all facilities to the said Bureau of Information and that the International Committee of the Red Cross may propose to the Powers concerned the organization of a Central Prisoners of War Information Agency in a neutral country.

H. Preventing prisoners of war and the wounded from exchanging letters with their families in violation of: (1) articles 70, 72 and 76 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War which permits prisoners of war to write to their families and to receive letters and parcels and "the examination of consignments intended for prisoners of war shall not be carried out under conditions that will expose the goods contained in them to deteriorate"; (2) articles 106 and 108 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, which permits interned persons to write to their families and to the Central Information Bureau and to receive parcels of food and clothing.

I. Disregarding regulations concerning the burial of the dead according to the rites of religion and in decent graves grouped and marked so that they may always be found, in violation of article 12 of the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick, which stipulates that the

dead should be identified, buried respectfully according to their religious rites in marked graves. The Information Bureau should also exchange lists of sites and markings of the graves and information regarding the dead buried in them.

J. Forcing great numbers of the inhabitants to leave their homes and expelling them by force in violation of: (1) article 49 of the Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, which prohibits individual or mass forcible transfers from occupied territory by the occupying Power and the transfer of part of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies; (2) article 54 of the same Convention which forbids the occupying Power "to alter the status of officials in occupied territories or in any way apply sanctions to, or take any measures of coercion against them".

K. Failure to take the urgent measures needed to avoid the shortage in food and deterioration of health conditions of the inhabitants in Gaza and Arish, exposing them to famine and a spread of epidemics despite the offers of the United Arab Republic to provide them with food and medical supplies, in violation of: (1) articles 55, 89, 91, 92 and 108 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, which oblige the occupying Power to ensure sufficient food supplies and medical care for the interned and to permit them to receive food parcels; (2) article 26 of the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War which stipulates that the "basic daily food ration shall be sufficient in quantity and quality" and prohibits collective disciplinary measures affecting the food of the prisoners; (3) article 72 of the same Convention which permits prisoners of war to receive individual or collective parcels, especially food and medical supplies.

L. Looting shops and stores and usurping private property in violation of article 55 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, which stipulates that "the occupying power may not requisition foodstuffs, articles of medical supplies available in the occupied territory except for use by the occupation forces and then only if the requirements of the civilian population has been taken into account", and taking into consideration international Conventions which provide for paying fair value for the requisitioned goods.

M. Destruction of roads, constructions and other public utilities after the cease-fire in violation of article 53 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, which prohibits the destruction of

real or personal property belonging to individuals or to the State, unless such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations.

5. The United Arab Republic deems it incumbent upon her to bring to the attention of the International Committee of the Red Cross those serious violations of the Geneva Conventions which are binding on the parties to the present conflict who have accepted the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross over the implementation of their provisions, and is willing to provide the International Committee of the Red Cross with evidence proving that Israeli authorities have committed these inhumane acts. The United Arab Republic also invites the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit its hospitals to witness the tragic and shameful results of these inhumane acts and requests that necessary investigations be conducted in the areas occupied by the Israeli authorities.

