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LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Republic of 21 June 1967, circulated as documents A/6726 and S/8007, alleging expulsion of civilians through the cease-fire line at Kantara.

The representative of the United Arab Republic repeated those allegations at the 1533rd plenary meeting of the General Assembly of 23 June 1967, and at the 1534th meeting, of the same date, I made the following reply:

"Prisoners of war are held in a camp at the outskirts of Kantara. As part of Israel's policy to return the prisoners of war to Egypt, arrangements have been made with the Egyptian authorities on the opposite bank of the Canal for them to ferry groups of released prisoners from the Israel line to the west bank of the Canal.

"These prisoners of war are freely accepted by the competent Egyptian authorities and transferred by them to Egyptian territory. No complaints have been received on the spot that persons other than prisoners of war have been sent to Egypt through Kantara.

"If there were Palestinians among the prisoners of war, they apparently belonged to the military units of the so-called Palestine Liberation Army, which was controlled by the Egyptian army and participated in the hostilities against Israel.

"Be that as it may, the transfer of prisoners of war at Kantara is being carried out with the free co-operation of the Egyptian authorities. The representatives of the International Red Cross have publicly expressed their satisfaction and appreciation at the manner in which Egyptian prisoners of war have been cared for and repatriated by Israel."

As in the case of earlier communications from the representatives of the United Arab Republic, circulated as documents S/7988 and S/7993, the statements

\* Also issued under the symbol A/6734.

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contained in the letter of 21 June 1967 are inconsistent with the facts. That letter must therefore be considered as one further attempt to mislead its readers.

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

Accept, etc.

(Signed) Gideon RAFAEL  
Permanent Representative

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