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FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 9 December 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the disconcerting conduct of certain speakers in the course of the 74th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held on 8 December 1988, which was devoted to the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It is with a sense of regret that I feel duty-bound to mention to you the unbecoming abuse of this solemn occasion by some Arab representatives for the purpose of voicing unfounded and specious vilifications against my country.

One would expect that significant occasions of this nature, dedicated to the noble goals of peace and harmony, should not be misused for inappropriate political objectives.

It is precisely due to the respect which the delegation of Israel has extended to this memorable anniversary, devoted to human rights, that we did not opt to insist on the exercise of the right of reply.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 38.

(Signed) Johanan BEIN
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative
