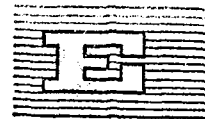
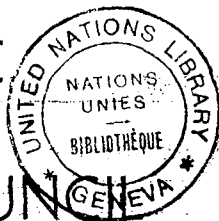


UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1260
17 August 1977

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirty-fourth session

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Letter dated 9 May 1977 from the Director-General of the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization of the League of Arab States to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights.

I have the honour to bring to your notice that the Eighth Archeological Conference of the Arab States, gathered at the request of the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organisation in the city of Marrakesh in the Kingdom of Morocco between February 1 and 9, 1977 and attended by some seventy five members representing all Arab States and UNESCO, has put forth a statement in which it condemns the repeated Israeli aggressions against the Arab Cultural properties in the occupied Arab territories.

In it, the Conference appeals to scholarly institutions concerned throughout the world, asking them to refrain from participating in archeological excavations with the Israeli authorities of occupation in the aforementioned Arab territories, thus protecting these precious remains for human civilization and cultural heritage.

It gives me great pleasure to send you, at the request of the conference, a copy of this statement of appeal, asking you to be kind enough to employ your efforts with the Israeli authorities that they may desist from further attacks on these cultural properties, in respect for the international agreements and conventions to which they are signatory.

I would also ask you to be kind enough to circulate this statement to the governments of the states, members of the Commission of Human Rights.

(Signed) Mohi El Din SABER
Director General

AN APPEAL ISSUED BY THE EIGHTH ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE OF THE ARAB STATES

The eighth Archeological Conference of the Arab States held in the city of Marrakesh, in the Kingdom of Morocco during the month of Safar 1397 A.H. (February 1977) and attended by Arab scholars and archeologists, considered as its main topic questions arising from excavations in the Arab lands.

Having considered studies and reports regarding Israel's ravishing of archeological sites in the Arab occupied lands and, in particular, in the holy city of Jerusalem, thus violating international conventions and recommendations on the protection of cultural property in periods of armed conflict, such as the convention of the Hague of 1954 and the New Delhi Recommendations of 1956 and the resolutions of the United Nations and UNESCO on the same subject.

Having noted Israel's breaching of these international principles, and its recurring assaults against these archeological sites and historical monuments in the occupied Arab lands and particularly those in the holy city of Jerusalem.

The Congress denounces the Israeli, antagonistic spirit repeatedly directed against man's heritage in the realm of culture and civilization, and

Holds Israel responsible for these assaults against these sites; for the mutilations, for the alterations brought to their original features, and for the plundering of their contents. It condemns, too, the misinterpretations brought to their meanings in order to have these fit the racial spirit and views of Israel.

The Conference calls upon international cultural and archeological organizations as well as upon all peoples of the world to join efforts to put an end to the acts perpetrated by Israel, not only against Arab heritage, but also against human civilization and the religious sanctuaries of the world at large.

It calls also upon all scholars, universities and scientific circles to refrain from participating with the Israeli Occupation Authorities from carrying out excavations in the occupied Arab regions in fulfilment of the principles of scientific integrity and in response to the call of intellectual dignity, and in order to put an end to such flagrant aggression against the legacies of man's civilization and cultural heritage, and in a bid to create closer bonds between these individuals and organizations, on the one hand, and the Arab countries on the other, in the preservation of this human heritage in which the Arab lands are so particularly rich.