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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 11 November 1983 from the Permanent Representative of
Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am sending you the latest information concerning Israel's settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories during October 1983. This activity, which violates the principles of international law relating to military occupation and, in particular, the Hague Conventions of 1907 and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, consists of the confiscation of Arab land for the establishment of new settlements.

I need not stress the danger of the continuation of such a policy for peace and security and for the prospects for peace in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdullah SALAH
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Israeli settlement

According to the Israeli newspaper Jerusalem Post of 4 October 1983, Meron Benvenisti, a former deputy mayor of occupied Jerusalem, says that the call for a freeze on the establishment of new settlements in the occupied West Bank, in order to pave the way for negotiations for the establishment of a Government of national unity in Israel, is merely trickery.

He explains that 40 per cent of the land (2,150,000 dunums) in the West Bank is ready for Israeli use and came into Israeli possession by confiscation for military purposes, by being declared State domain or through a ban on Arab citizens' building on it. Of this land, the army took over 50 per cent for use as zones for training or for testing the range of artillery (most of this land is in the Jordan valley) while 140,000 dunums were earmarked for Jewish settlement, 150,000 dunums for pasturage and woodland, 340,000 dunums for natural environment, 120,000 dunums for Israeli agriculture, 150,000 dunums for industry and 40,000 dunums for roads. Benvenisti says that, according to the Israeli Government's planning method, which calls for the provision of one dunum (1,000 sq. m. of land) for every two families (average number of family members: 4.2), the Israeli Government has enough land at its disposal to settle half a million people.

There is also approximately one third of the land of the occupied Gaza Strip which can be used for the purposes of Jewish settlement. If the agreement of reconciliation between the Israeli parties, which would ban the establishment of new Jewish settlements outside the area previously prepared and planned, is concluded, there is enough land to settle 200,000 people in the West Bank.

After the manner of the Israeli Government and the Jewish Agency planner, Benvenisti divides up the West Bank vertically into three zones. While most of the land of the Jordan Valley will be earmarked for the use of the Israeli army as a training zone, the Israeli demographic representation there remains insignificant.

The central sector coincides with the Gush Emunim settlement map, which extends the length of the West Bank mountain chain. Most of the settlement in this zone is considered largely ideological.

Benvenisti voices doubts as to whether the Israeli Government is actually capable of moving 100,000 Jews to settle in the West Bank by the beginning of 1986, but he says that it definitely can do it by the beginning of 1991. He stresses that such a step will be carried out in the area of Greater Jerusalem and Greater Tel Aviv.

He notes that this step will lead to the creation of two dense civilian zones, because the inhabitants will live in two neighbouring zones but under separate but not equivalent régimes.

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He notes also that, with the extension of the Tel Aviv zone to the Nablus zone and the settlements to the west of Nablus, the whole may include 100,000 Arab citizens living in the zones situated between the settlements and that, with the extension of the Jerusalem zone, the Jewish majority may, in actuality, drop by a not insignificant percentage by the beginning of 1991.

Benvenisti, a former deputy mayor of occupied Jerusalem, says that to date the Israeli Government and the Jewish Agency have spent \$1.5 billion on the West Bank (military investments not included). This amount includes \$700 million for housing and \$75 million for roads (\$200,000 per sq. km.).

He adds that, in order to reach the goal of 100,000 Jews, the Israeli Government will have to spend \$2.5 billion more. Since this step has to be taken by the beginning of 1986, an annual expenditure of \$375 million will be required, which constitutes one half of the average for current Government expenditure. However, if the deadline is 1991, the average annual expenditure will be reduced to \$200 million and becomes more feasible.

Hasan IBRAHIM
Minister for Occupied
Territories Affairs
