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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION

Letter dated 10 January 1985 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to the conversation Ambassador Netanyahu had with you some time ago, I wish to bring to your attention some of the more extreme examples of the anti-Semitic outbursts that occurred during the months of November-December, in open forums of the United Nations. I should like also to refer to the previous letters from the Permanent Representative of Israel (see A/39/79 and Corr.1 of 16 January 1984, A/38/713 of 8 December 1983, A/37/392 of 16 August 1982, A/37/542 of 12 October 1982 and A/33/545 of 21 December 1978) on the subject of anti-Semitism.\*

1. Mr. Rajaie-Khorassani, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, speaking in the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 28 November 1984, stated:

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\* The terms "anti-Semitism" and "anti-Semitic", as defined in The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English, represent hostility to Jews.

(a) "The Zionist problem in the Middle East is not simply a political problem or a military problem; it is a fundamental moral and religious problem; it is a centre of corruption. The people of the Middle East can get rid of this centre of corruption only when the centre is eradicated and those Ashkenazi Jews who travelled to Palestine with mythical dreams go back to their beautiful homes in London and Paris and New York. The Middle East belongs to the Middle Eastern people" (A/39/PV.76, p. 66).

(b) "We think that the final solution to the problem of the Middle East is a very simple solution. We must restore the legitimate Government of Palestine, which has been annihilated once by the Ashkenazi Jews who came to the area as unwanted guests. They must go" (ibid.).

2. The representative of Jordan, speaking in the plenary session of the General Assembly on 26 November 1984, said:

"The Nazi sadism applied to Jews became the Israeli sadism to be applied to Arabs. The Nazi ovens built for Jews have been turned by the Israelis into ovens for the Palestinians" (A/39/PV.72, pp. 4-5).

3. The representative of Iraq, speaking in the Special Political Committee on 21 November 1984, under the item (Israeli practices in the Territories), said:

"Yet the real question should be whether a 'Jewish people' actually existed, where it originated and how many different languages it spoke" (A/SPC/39/SR.38, p. 4).

However, the post-war annals of recorded, anti-Semitic statements sponsored by Governments have yet to register viciousness comparable to the remarks of the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia made on December 5 last in the course of the "United Nations Seminar on the Encouragement of Understanding, Tolerance and Respect in Matters Relating to Freedom of Religion or Belief". The content of these remarks is especially serious seen on the background of the forum in which they were made - the United Nations Organization at Geneva.

The notoriety of the person making this statement and his anti-Semitic background are a matter of public record. Inter alia, Mr. Ma'ruf Dawalibi served as secretary to Haj Amin-al Husseini between 1942 and 1945 in Berlin when the latter openly aided the Nazi régime. It is to be considered especially reprehensible for the Saudi Government to allow a person with such a record to speak in its name; responsibility for this repugnant expression of racism thus lies fully with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In his statement, Mr. Dawalibi revived the blood libel of Damascus of 1840 when the Jewish leaders of that city suffered repression and torture: the Jews were accused of killing a Christian priest and gathering his blood for religious purposes. The heads of the Jewish community were tortured to admit to this preposterous accusation.

Translation of the statement, made in Arabic, was not available through United Nations services due to technical difficulties, and was made at the Israel Mission at Geneva.

The following are additional examples from Mr. Dawalibi's speech:

(a) "What is common between Hitler and Nebuchadnessor? Thousands of years separate between them and they are not of the same country and they are not of the same race. Why did Nebuchadnessor expel and scatter them throughout the world? Why did Hitler want to exterminate them? Why, Sir? Let them examine themselves and ask themselves for the answer. It is because they call themselves the chosen people and allege that they were chosen by God from among all the peoples. I have studied this subject scientifically ..."

(b) "The Talmud says: 'If a Jew does not drink the blood of a non-Jew every year he will be damned for eternity'."

(c) "What has brought oppression of the Jewish world from these ancient times to this very day is their belief."

Evidently, a trend is now emerging at the United Nations Organization allowing anti-Semitic rhetoric to be practised with ever-growing impunity. Official statements are being made by representatives of some Member States in the belief, now become conviction, that the United Nations Organization, its Secretariat, the presiding officers at its meetings, or representatives of Member States exposed to this rampant form of racism, will not call the anti-Semites to order, castigate them or prevent them from using the United Nations as a rostrum for ventilating their racial prejudice. The paucity of reactions from the floor proves that, given the atmosphere prevalent at the United Nations, complacency and acquiescence have now taken hold.

Israel, and not Israel alone, believes that this state of affairs must be reversed with determination and alacrity.

Action is called for especially at the United Nations Headquarters: the resurgence of anti-Semitism in many parts of the world can be traced to the encouragement given it by the infamous General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, equating Zionism with racism. This resolution is an insult to the courage and the martyrdom of the Jewish people over 18 centuries and to its great national liberation movement. Zionism arose to regain Jewish independence and to stem the very anti-Semitism which has now found shelter and solace at the United Nations Organization.

We therefore urge Your Excellency to condemn forcefully the recurrent outbreaks of anti-Semitic rhetoric at the United Nations and actively consider ways and means of preventing these repeated breaches of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For it is greatly to be feared that, barring decisive steps taken by the Secretary-General and the Secretariat, anti-Semitism will be encouraged to take firm root in the

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Organization, soon bearing its bitter harvest of hatred and tragedy, as always in the past. The decline and the decay of the body which fired the imagination of mankind in 1945 will then be the indelible mark of its fortieth anniversary.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", "The situation in the Middle East", "Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination", "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

(Signed) Aryeh LEVIN

Ambassador

Deputy Permanent Representative

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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