



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERALA/39/283
S/16598
1 June 1984
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-ninth session
Item 71 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS
OF THE POPULATION OF THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 1 June 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach some information on the excavations which the Israeli authorities have been carrying out for some time now near the Al-Aqsa holy mosque and underneath the religious buildings and mortmain property in the Holy City of Al-Quds. These excavations have caused collapses in the building of the Islamic Council, which belongs to the Al-Quds Mortmain Property Administration, as well as numerous cracks in many religious and mortmain buildings near Al-Aqsa mosque. The mosque itself is also threatened by these excavations.

There is no need for me to emphasize the illegality and unlawfulness of these excavations undertaken by the Israeli authorities, which contravene all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and violate the international rules of law applicable to occupied territories. I should also like to draw attention to the disastrous consequences which these Israeli excavations could have if a holy object of Islam was to be destroyed. Millions of muslims are deeply attached to Al-Aqsa holy mosque and any damage or profanation of it will arouse an anger of unforeseen proportions and consequences.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdullah SALAH
Permanent Representative

* A/39/50.

ANNEX

On 26 March 1984, part of the stairs situated at the entrance to the building of the Higher Islamic Council, near Al-Aqsa holy mosque, collapsed and a crack three metres long, two metres wide and 10 metres deep was discovered, leading to a long underground tunnel drilled by the Israeli archaeological department along the western outside wall of Al-Aqsa mosque. This tunnel extends from Bab Almagharbah, via Bab Abselsehlah in Souk Alkattamin and Bab Alhadid, to the door of the Higher Islamic Council which houses the offices of the Mortmain Property Administration (also known as the Manjakiya School).

The drilling of this tunnel has caused four steps of the Council staircase to collapse and cracks to appear in the walls of the Council building and in the rooms inside.

An official of the Al-Quds Mortmain Property Administration explained that the collapse was caused by the excavations undertaken under the auspices of the Israeli Ministry of the Interior and Worship, which is looking for what is known as the north side of the Wailing Wall.

The official added that these excavations affect not only the building of the Mortmain Property Administration but also all the Islamic monuments parallel to this wall and those in the holy precinct of the Holy City of Al-Quds, where digging has disturbed the foundations which are no longer able to bear the weight of the buildings, with the result that they are becoming increasingly cracked and may collapse completely in the future.

According to the Al-Quds newspaper Chaab of 30 March 1984, which reproduced information published in the newspaper Ha'aretz, Mr. Moshe Zakaluitech, Director of the Department of Holy Places of the Israeli Ministry of Worship, stated that the excavations would continue and would involve the northern part and the areas of Al-Aqsa holy mosque which extend from Bab Alkawtmah to Bab Al-Asbat; this constitutes an extension, up to the southern part of Al-Aqsa mosque and then to the western part, of the excavations carried out by the Israeli authorities since 1967.

In spite of the efforts made by the Islamic organizations of Al-Quds to repair the cracks which have begun to appear in most of the Islamic monuments surrounding the mosque as a result of the continuation of the Israeli excavations, the collapse of these buildings seems imminent and requires, in addition to an immediate halt to the excavations, the preparation of an overall plan aimed at strengthening them and repairing the cracks which have begun to appear in them.
