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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Telegram dated 8 May 1968 from the President of the  
International Conference on Human Rights to the  
President of the General Assembly

I have been requested by the International Conference on Human Rights to transmit to you the text of a resolution adopted by the Conference at its 23rd plenary meeting, on 7 May 1968, by a vote of 42 in favour, 5 against and 25 abstentions:

"The International Conference on Human Rights,

"Being guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Having heard the statements made in the Conference with regard to the question of 'respect for and implementation of human rights in occupied territories', and noting the note submitted by the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/CONF.32/22),

"Bearing in mind the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 regarding the protection of civilian persons in time of war,

"Recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) and General Assembly resolution 2252 (ES-V) in which the Council and the Assembly considered that essential and inalienable rights should be respected even during the vicissitudes of war and called upon the Government of Israel to facilitate the return of those inhabitants who have fled the areas of military operations since the outbreak of hostilities,

"Recalling further articles 2, 18 and 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and resolutions 2253 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 and 2254 (ES-V) of 14 July 1967 adopted by the General Assembly, calling upon Israel to rescind

all measures already taken and to desist forthwith from taking any action which would alter the status of Jerusalem and deploring the failure of Israel to implement that resolution,

"Mindful of the principle embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights regarding the right of everyone to return to his own country,

"Further recalling:

(a) Resolution 6 (XXIV) of the Commission on Human Rights affirming the rights of the inhabitants who have left since the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East to return, and that the Government concerned should take the necessary measures in order to facilitate the return of those inhabitants to their own country without delay,

(b) The telegram dispatched by the Commission on Human Rights on 9 March 1968, calling upon the Government of Israel to desist forthwith from acts of destroying homes of Arab civilian population inhabiting areas occupied by Israel,

"1. Expresses its grave concern for the violation of human rights in Arab territories occupied as a result of the June 1967 hostilities;

"2. Draws the attention of the Government of Israel to the grave consequences resulting from disregard of fundamental freedoms and human rights in occupied territories;

"3. Calls on the Government of Israel to desist forthwith from acts of destroying homes of Arab civilian population inhabiting areas occupied by Israel, and to respect and implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 in occupied territories;

"4. Affirms the inalienable rights of all inhabitants who have left their homes as a result of the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East to return, resume normal life, recover their property and homes, and rejoin their families according to the provision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

"5. Requests the General Assembly to appoint a special committee to investigate violations of human rights in the territories occupied by Israel and to report thereon;

"6. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to keep the matter under constant review."

Ashraf PAHLAVI  
President of the International Conference  
on Human Rights

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