



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/7808  
2 December 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-fourth session  
Agenda item 57

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS,  
INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF  
APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL  
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 2 December 1969 from the Permanent Representative of  
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 20 November 1969 by the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/7787).

That letter alleges that my letter to you of 10 November 1969 (A/7762) and its enclosures regarding the human rights of Soviet Jewry and, in particular, the right of Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union to do so, deals with a matter "wholly within the internal competence of States". This allegation is unacceptable. Under the Charter of the United Nations, as it has consistently been applied, matters of human rights are recognized as being of direct concern to all Member States and the limitation on the powers of the Organization set forth in Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter is not relevant when human rights are at issue.

The strongest exception is taken to the contention appearing in the Soviet representative's letter that the circulation of my letter of 10 November 1969 was effected in violation of a resolution of the Economic and Social Council. There is no resolution of the Economic and Social Council which interferes in any way with the practice which exists in the Organization regarding the circulation, as official documents of an appropriate organ, of official letters emanating from a Member Government in exercise of its rights and prerogatives as

a Member of the United Nations. The fact that my letter may have contained statements pertaining to the human rights of certain individuals, or referred to their appeals, does not convert that letter itself into a communication for the purposes of the particular treatment reserved in the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council for communications from individuals. My letter was addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in relation to items on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly.

The plight of Soviet Jewry constitutes one of the gravest human tragedies in contemporary history. My letter of 10 November 1969 is not the first appeal to the United Nations on behalf of the three and a half million Soviet Jews. Israel and other States have for many years raised this important issue in the course of the debates of the General Assembly as well as in other United Nations bodies.

World public opinion, many international organizations and even Communist parties throughout the world have expressed their anxiety and concern regarding the violations of the human rights of Soviet Jews. Nevertheless, the Soviet Government persists in its discriminatory policy against the Jews.

The enlightened world expects the Soviet Government to manifest respect of the United Nations Charter and the human rights of its Jewish citizens, and in particular to let those among them who wish to leave to do so.

It is regrettable that the policies pursued by the Soviet Union and the position adopted by it in the United Nations are not in conformity with the purposes of the Organization defined in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as "harmonizing the actions of States for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security and developing friendly relations and international co-operation". Thus the Soviet Union identifies itself with and encourages Arab belligerence against Israel, a State Member of the United Nations, and misuses United Nations forums to defame Israel.

I have the honour to request circulation of this letter as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Yosef TEKOAH  
Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations

-----