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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 23 December 1974 from the Acting 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 by the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Morocco of 19 December 1974 (A/9991) concerning the case of Archbishop Capucci.

That letter, signed by the Moroccan Chargé d'Affaires a.i. as Chairman of the Arab Group, is another transparent attempt to make use of the conviction of Archbishop Capucci after due process of law for cheap Arab propaganda and religious incitement.

Archbishop Capucci has grossly abused his office by engaging in the smuggling of large quantities of arms and sabotage material on behalf of Arab terror organizations, which continue in their murder campaign against civilians in Israel.

As pointed out by the District Court of Jerusalem in the sentence pronounced by it on 9 December 1974, the accused admitted his misdeeds and "he also co-operated, during 10 days, with Israeli security officers to discover the identity of a man for whom the arms were intended. Acting, as instructed by security officers, he most probably did not think of his loyalty to the rights of the Palestinian nation but was guided by his anxiety for his own good and freedom." The sentence of the Court was quoted in this Mission's letter of 18 December 1974 (A/9989-S/11581).

In the circumstances, it is the height of absurdity and arrogance to protest against the verdict and sentence passed in the present case. No amount of hypocritical protestations will detract from the gravity of the criminal offences committed by Archbishop Capucci.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109.

(Signed) Jacob DORON  
Acting Permanent Representative of Israel  
to the United Nations