

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY
COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/8677
S/10590
6 April 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Twenty-seventh session
Item 22 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Twenty-seventh year

Letter dated 6 April 1972 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and pursuant to my letter dated 29 March 1972, 1/ I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 3 April 1972 by the Permanent Representative of Israel. 2/

In their state of intoxication and racial arrogance, the Israelis have failed to understand the principles upon which the United Nations and the whole modern world order are based. They have also failed to appreciate, and consequently to heed, the world cry for the observance of human rights and the respect for fundamental freedoms of peoples without discrimination as to race, colour, religion or creed.

In their letter referred to above, they lamented the repeated charges that Israel had deported 10,000 Egyptians residing in Sinai and had destroyed tens of houses in the Al Arish area (also in Sinai). In their illusory, confident supremacy, they have admitted the occurrence of such crimes and it is the same arrogance that made them disregard world reaction and challenge the world action against such crimes, which have been declared war crimes and an affront to humanity by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

They also failed to understand why people revolt against foreign occupation and resist its atrocities. Such usurpation of ideals is not alien to the Israeli way of thinking. They speak about their "heroic" fight against the Nazi occupation in Europe and at the same time deny the Arab people the right to fight against the Zionist occupation in the Middle East. They speak about fighting nazism and

* A/8700.

1/ A/8674-S/10582.

2/ A/8675-S/10587.

at the same time espouse Nazi ideologies, carry out Nazi practices and claim the superiority and exclusiveness of race. Their arrogance certainly makes them forget that the only régimes which have been condemned for committing war crimes are the Nazi régime in Germany, the racist régime in South Africa and the Zionist régime in Israel.

Moreover, in a hopeless effort to substantiate their pitiful claims and flimsy arguments, they resort to misquotations from famous world writers and thinkers. Suffice it to refer to the quotation, or rather the misquotation, they cited from an interview with the famous Egyptian writer, Tewfik Al-Hakim. The Israeli letter says in this respect:

"... Tewfik Al-Hakim... in an interview published in the Christian Science Monitor of 22 March 1972, declared that Israel's presence in Sinai cannot be compared even to the period of British control. 'No', he said, 'this is not the kind of foreign occupation or the same national problem which the British occupation was for us earlier'".

Mr. Al-Hakim, in fact, said in the aforementioned interview:

"In these days of the United Nations, the Israeli presence in part of Egypt is a temporal and passing thing. No, this is not the kind of foreign occupation... etc."

It is apparent, aside from the misquotation, that the meaning of the words of this famous writer has escaped the Israelis, or so they pretend. What Mr. Al-Hakim is trying to say is that, in the era of the Charter and under the aegis of the United Nations, such Israeli occupation will definitely be brought to an end.

The Israelis, however, are unable to understand the difference between the pre-Charter era, which allowed colonialism and territorial expansion to occur, and the era of the United Nations Charter and the modern world order, which has prohibited such policies. Mr. Al-Hakim is, in fact, looking forward, while the Israelis are, as usual, looking backward. As to the style, tone and content of the Israeli letter, we feel that they do not deserve wasting time or effort in discussing them.

The fact remains that war crimes are being committed in the territories occupied by Israel, and no amount of distortions, misquotations or flimsy arguments can help Israel escape the verdict of the international community.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council and forwarded to the Commission on Human Rights as well as to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories.

(Signed) Dr. A. Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Ambassador
Permanent Representative