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LETTER DATED 26 APRIL 1979 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization concerning the resumption of the creation of West Bank settlements by the Israeli Government.

I would request you to circulate the enclosure as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdulmohsen EL JEAAN  
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.  
Permanent Mission of the State  
of Kuwait to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 25 April 1979 from the Permanent Observer of the  
Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations  
addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization I wish to bring the following to your attention. It was reported in The New York Times of today, 25 April 1979,

... the Israeli government has resumed the creation of West Bank settlements. Their appearance is bound to inflame passions throughout the region and make accommodation still more difficult.

"It is symbolically interesting that one of the new settlements formally approved by Prime Minister Begin's Cabinet is to be at Shiloh, 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem. When this encampment was first staked out two years ago by groups favoring annexation of the West Bank, the Cabinet took umbrage at foreign criticism and elaborately denied any political motive. This was no settlement, it said, only an archeological dig. Well, there was no dig, and now there is to be a settlement after all."

In another article in The New York Times on 24 April 1979, it was reported that the United States maintained that Menachem Begin has pledged not to create new settlements until negotiations on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza have been completed. Begin however has denied giving such a pledge. He contended that he agreed only to a three-month "freeze" on new settlements and that the freeze ended in December. Israel has disregarded American warnings and gone ahead to approve the creation of two more Jewish settlements on the occupied West Bank.

It was reported by Anthony Lewis in an article in The New York Times on 19 April 1979, that Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Agriculture, "... talks about moving in 27,000 settler-families over the next three years".

In the context of the above-mentioned developments, it is appropriate to refer to Security Council resolution 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, which

"1. Determines that the policy and practices of Israel in establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, have no validity and constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;"

and to the statement by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the Council in document S/PV.1969 of 11 November 1976:

/...

(3) Its affirmation that the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War is applicable to the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. Therefore, the occupying Power is called upon once again to comply strictly with the provisions of that Convention and to refrain from any measure that violates them. In this regard the measures taken by Israel in the occupied Arab territories that alter their demographic composition or geographical nature and particularly the establishment of settlements are strongly deplored. Such measures which have no legal validity and cannot prejudice the outcome of the search for the establishment of peace constitute an obstacle to peace: ..."

The persistent and unrelenting policy of the Zionist movement to disregard and completely ignore Security Council resolutions is another manifestation of their determination to pursue their aggressive policy against the Palestinian people. It is therefore only natural and legitimate that the Palestinian people should confront this present policy by all means available including armed struggle.

I am instructed to inform you that the Palestine Liberation Organization holds the Government of Israel solely responsible for the re-eruption of the circle of violence that is constituting a threat to international peace and security, and calls upon you to take all measures as provided by the Charter of the United Nations in order to eliminate the root cause of this phenomenon, namely, termination of the prolongation of the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory, and the recognition and exercise of the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights in its own country, Palestine.

(Signed) Zehdi Labib TERZI  
Permanent Observer