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LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1980 FROM THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON
THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have the honour to convey to you the serious concern of the Committee over the recent decision of the Government of Israel to seize 375 acres of Arab land near Bethlehem in the occupied Arab territories for the establishment of yet another Jewish settlement. This follows the extensive expropriations referred to in a previous communication from this Committee (S/13843).

The fact that this decision is taken within a few weeks after the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 465 (1980), calling on the Government of Israel to cease urgently the establishment of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and to dismantle the existing settlements, clearly demonstrates the intransigence and the cynical attitude of Israel towards the decision of the United Nations, to which it owes its existence, towards world opinion and towards the fundamental principles of human rights.

This violation by Israel of resolution 465 (1980) and of previous resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly is further proof of the duplicity of Israel which, on the one hand, claims to be striving to promote the autonomy of the occupied territories and, on the other, reveals its intention of colonizing and annexing the occupied Arab territories.

It is quite evident that the Government of Israel has no intention of helping to find a peaceful solution for the question of Palestine, which forms the core of the Middle East problem.

The Committee therefore believes that concrete and practical action by the Security Council on the basis of General Assembly resolution 34/65 A for the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, repeatedly endorsed by the General Assembly, would without any doubt lead to the solution of the question of Palestine, and consequently of the problem of the Middle East as a whole.

I shall be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Raúl Roa KOURI
Acting Chairman of the Committee
on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People