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LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1980 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the following communication from His Excellency Mr. Chedli Klibi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States:

"Your deliberations that start today on the destiny of Jerusalem come at a most crucial phase in the over-all question of Palestine.

"The significance that Jerusalem has for the Arab people of all faiths is testified by the fact that it is to them Al Qods, the Holy City, the Sacred. Our attachment to Jerusalem is not only spiritual, religious and moral but organic, material and national.

"Jerusalem is not only part of our valued spiritual heritage and religious experience but it is intertwined into our national consciousness and historical evolution.

"That Israel is seeking to alter Jerusalem's demographic status, mutilate its physical and cultural character, obliterate the thrust of its sense of historical and Arab national belonging is a challenge to the very essence of our national and spiritual consciousness.

"The world community has repeatedly condemned the unilateral acts by the Israeli occupation authority in Jerusalem, its illegal annexation and its illegitimate designation of it as its capital.

"To the world community, Jerusalem is a universal city of light and Israel's aggressive acts in it in terms of annexation and usurpation is an attempt on the part of Zionist racism to swallow it into the darkness which inevitably ensues if Israel's designs are allowed to go unchecked.

"Recent legislation acrobatics in the Israeli Knesset are but the latest in the Zionist plans in facing the world community with accomplished facts.

"That the United Nations Security Council is seized of this issue underlined the deep concern of the international community as well as its determination to end the process of distortion and creeping annexation pursued by Israel against our beloved Arab Jerusalem.

"The League of Arab States and the Arab peoples expect that your deliberations would lead to a resolution that will go beyond condemnation to include measures credible to deter the aggressor and terminate Israel's violations in the Holy City.

"Chedli Klibi
Secretary-General
League of Arab States"

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) M'Hamed ESSAAFI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Tunisia
to the United Nations
