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LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a message addressed to
Your Excellency, from Mr. Riyad Mansour, Deputy Permanent Observer of the Palestine
Liberation Organization to the United Nations, dated 28 March 1984.

I kindly request Your Excellency to arrange for the circulation of the text
enclosed herewith as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed T. KHALIL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 28 March 1984 from the Deputy Permanent Observer of the
Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations addressed to
the President of the Security Council

I am asked by Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization to bring the following to your urgent attention.

On Monday, 26 March 1984, the staircase leading to the entrance of the Higher Islamic Council near the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, crumbled and was destroyed. On investigation an opening was discovered, three meters long, two meters wide and ten meters deep leading to a tunnel dug by the Israeli Department of Archeology. The tunnel runs along the outer western wall of the Holy Al Aqsa Mosque, from the Western Gate (Bab Al Magharbeh) along the Chains Gate (Bab As Silsileh) over to the Iron Gate (Kattanin on the Bab Al Hadid), until the Gate of the Higher Islamic Council, which comprises the Office of the Islamic Awgaf Department.

The crumbling of the staircase resulted in the destruction of four walls, and caused several similar cracks in the walls of the building of the Higher Islamic Council and its inner walls (Al Atraf Al Dakhiliyya). Cracks were also caused in other Islamic archeological buildings in the area of the Kattanin market and Bab Al Hadid.

The Israeli Department of Archeology has been conducting excavations under the pretext of searching for the remains of the kingdom of David. However, the main purpose is to totally destroy the holy Al Aqsa Mosque, the holy Dome of the Rock and all Islamic archeological sites in the area. Sheikh Ikrima Sabri, Head of Preaching and Guidance, together with the people of Al Quds (Jerusalem) have called for the halting of all excavations.

During recent months there have been several such instances of attempts to destroy Islamic and Christian holy places in the Israeli occupied Palestinian territories.

Chairman Arafat urges that the Security Council be alerted to these deplorable events, and that respect for the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council should be ensured, as well as the principles of the Charter of the United Nations itself.

(Signed) Riyad MANSOUR
Deputy Permanent Observer
