



Security Council

PROVISIONAL

S/PV.2649
30 January 1986

ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 30 January 1986, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. LI LUYE

(China)

Members: Australia
Bulgaria
Congo
Denmark
France
Ghana
Madagascar
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela

Mr. WOOLCOTT
Mr. TSVETKOV
Mr. ADOUKI
Mr. BIERRING
Mr. de KEMOULARIA
Mr. GBEHO
Mr. RABETAFIKA
Mr. KASEMSARN
Mr. ALLEYNE
Mr. SAFRONCHUK
Mr. AL-SHAALI

Sir John THOMSON
Ms. BYRNE
Mr. PABON

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the Security Council.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

- (a) LETTER DATED 16 JANUARY 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/17740)
- (b) LETTER DATED 16 JANUARY 1986 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/17741)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Chinese): In accordance with the decisions taken at the previous meetings on this item, I invite the representative of Morocco to take a place at the Council table; I invite the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization to take a place at the Council table; I invite the representatives of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Egypt, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen to take the places reserved for them at the sides of the Council Chamber.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Alaoui (Morocco) took a place at the Council table; Mr. Terzi (Palestine Liberation Organization) took a place at the Council table; Mr. Zarif (Afghanistan), Mr. Djoudi (Algeria), Mr. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Mr. Haji Omar (Brunei Darussalam), Mr. Oramas Oliva (Cuba), Mr. Shaker (Egypt), Mr. Camara (Guinea), Ms. Kunadi (India), Mr. Wiryono (Indonesia), Mr. Rittani (Iraq), Mr. Rajaisi-Khorastani (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Netanyahu (Israel), Mr. Kasrawi (Jordan), Mr. Azzarouk (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. Zain Azraai (Malaysia), Mr. Ould Boye (Mauritania),

Mr. Icaza Gallard (Nicaragua), Mr. Shah Nawaz (Pakistan), Mr. Al-Kawari (Qatar), Mr. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia), Mr. Birido (Sudan), Mr. El-Fattal (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Bouziri (Tunisia), Mr. Turkmen (Turkey), and Mr. Basendwah (Yemen) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Chinese): I should like to inform members of the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Yugoslavia in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Golob (Yugoslavia) took the place reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Chinese): The Security Council will now resume consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them in document S/17769 the text of a draft resolution sponsored by the Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Arab Emirates.

The first speaker is the representative of Madagascar.

Mr. RABETAFIKA (Madagascar) (interpretation from French): At the present stage of our debate, it no longer seems to us timely to go back to what occurred on 5, 9, 14, 17 and 19 January in Jerusalem and the territories occupied by Israel. Preceding speakers have related the facts with all due seriousness, and with understandable emotion tempered by a sense of responsibility. I refer, in

(Mr. Rabetafika, Madagascar)

particular, to the representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, our colleague the representative of the United Arab Emirates and the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). We are grateful to them for having provided the Council with information and material that dispelled certain doubts and allowed the members of the Council to come to an informed, if not objective, opinion regarding the events for which we hold Israel responsible.

No doubt remains, or can remain, regarding the provocations to which Muslim Palestinians have been subjected. No resolution of the Council regarding the status and unique nature of Jerusalem has been or can be challenged; no right has been recognized to Israel to set itself up as the exclusive guardian of the Holy Places, and no concession has been made to it regarding the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. In a word, the Council has the right purely and simply to reject the various arguments put forward by Israel.

In that connection, it has been stated that the acts of provocation and the desecration of Holy Places not only were the work of individuals, with no responsibility to be borne at the international level, but that they have been covered up by the guilty silence of the occupying authorities. Now, we are dealing here with notorious individuals, a member of the Government and several members of the Interior Committee for Israeli settlements, whose words and deeds serve only to reflect Israeli practices in the occupied territories, in particular in Jerusalem.

Would those individuals have acted that way unless they thought that, a priori and a posteriori, they had the endorsement of certain political circles? Would they have had the gall to desecrate Holy Places and offend the sensibilities of Muslim Palestinians unless they felt certain that they were acting in pursuit of Israel's exclusivist policy? Would ordinary citizens have behaved in that way, as if they were in a conquered territory, unless they were encouraged by statements of responsible individuals?

(Mr. Rabetafika, Madagascar)

All those questions will doubtless remain unanswered; nevertheless they invalidate the claim that these were minor incidents which occurred during a routine visit. If we take that claim literally and in the light of the testimony presented during this debate, the provocations and the deployment of several hundred members of the security forces against persons involved in acts of prayer would therefore have little significance and the desecration of Holy Places could become a routine matter.

(Mr. Rabetafika, Madagascar)

No member of the Council, whatever his own beliefs, can admit such an absurd notion, and we believe that it is time that Israel ceased practices running counter to international law and, in particular, to human rights. All we are doing here is facilitating the return to a normal situation in the region through the inauguration of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. But we fail to see how that normal situation can be restored : long as we are witness to deplorable and condemnable incidents, so long as Israel manipulates history in order to arrogate unto itself rights not internationally recognized, so long as traditional values of respect for others are ignored, so long as domination and expansionism are enshrined as State doctrine.

It could be said that while we wait we should work for coexistence in the Middle East; in this connection there has been talk also of religious coexistence, especially in Jerusalem, which is viewed as a Holy Place. We support that idea, but we would ask what kind of religious coexistence can prevail there, when coexistence between peoples is made difficult, if not impossible, and when one of those peoples identifies itself with a religion whose Holy Places are deliberately desecrated.

On the basis of Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem and on Israeli practices in the occupied territories, my delegation thought it might be possible to put an end to intolerance reinforced by political myths, and that we could have taken specific measures to follow up the second report of the commission established by the Security Council in its resolution 446 (1979).

The draft resolution we have submitted has at least the virtue of affirming the just demands of Muslim Palestinians and of all Islam regarding strict respect for Holy Places. It also reaffirms non-recognition of Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem and the obligations of the occupying Power, which in a memorandum addressed to the Trusteeship Council 35 years ago, on 25 May 1950, recognized

(Mr. Rabetafika, Madagascar)

"the responsibility of the United Nations on all matters directly affecting the Holy Places and free access to them".

It is this that we have done.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Chinese): The next speaker is the representative of Afghanistan. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. ZARIF (Afghanistan): I wish to express my delegation's gratitude to you, Sir, and through you to the other members of the Council for this opportunity to speak on the item under discussion.

The professional skill and tact with which you have thus far conducted the work of the Council assures us of a fruitful outcome to the Council's deliberations on the issue at hand.

The Security Council is once again called upon to assume its direct responsibility for averting a situation that could pose a serious threat to international peace and security. As on many other occasions in the past, the source of that threat lies in the aggressive, expansionist and occupationist policies of the Israeli Zionists.

Recent brazen acts of profanation and desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque by elements in the ruling Zionist institutions come as yet another link in the long chain of deliberate acts of harassment, provocation and humiliation against the Arab Muslim population of the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

Since their occupation and annexation of East Jerusalem after the June 1967 war, the Zionists have carried out a systematic campaign of ridding Al-Quds Al-Sharif of its Arab Islamic character. In Jerusalem as in many other parts of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, Islamic holy shrines and mosques have been the prime targets of Zionist barbarity and lawlessness.

(Mr. Zarif, Afghanistan)

In order to implement their long-term plan completely to Judaize the Holy City, the Zionists have drawn up a thorough plan, on the basis of which large numbers of the Muslim population of occupied Al-Quds have been forcibly evacuated from their dwellings; vast pieces of their land have been confiscated by the occupying authorities. In the event of resistance by the Muslim Arab population, there has been resort to such methods as armed harassment, vandalism, hooliganism and the demolition of houses, in some instances even while the occupants were still inside. Those methods are part of a larger plan to wipe out any evidence in the demographic, historical, religious and cultural aspects of the city which could prove its Islamic and Arab character.

It has been established beyond any shred of doubt, and by no lesser authorities than internationally recognized commissions and such international organizations as the League of Nations and the United Nations, that Al-Haram Al-Sharif and its surrounding walls have been and remain Muslim property. That fact has been recognized by the Jewish Religious Council, the Agudath Israel Organization, the World Association of Rabbis and the Chief Rabbi of Palestine.

The United Nations has, time and again, condemned Israeli actions purporting to alter the physical character, demographic composition, legal status and institutional structure of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. This Council has adopted nine resolutions since 1967 with specific reference to Jerusalem, in which the concern of the international community has been voiced over the Israeli policy of annexation and Judaization of the Holy City and in which Israel has been called upon to rescind forthwith all laws and regulations aimed at altering the basic features of occupied Jerusalem.

To the international community's great indignation, the arrogant Zionist entity, relying on the unconditional economic, political and military support of its mentor, United States imperialism, has totally defied all resolutions of the

(Mr. Zarif, Afghanistan)

General Assembly and the Security Council. In violation of the Hague Rules, the Geneva Convention, the United Nations Charter and other international instruments, it has continued to take further steps towards fully implementing its illegal policy of aggrandisement and annexation. A stark example of that policy is the enactment of the so-called basic law declaring Jerusalem to be the "eternal capital" of Israel.

(Mr. Zarif, Afghanistan)

This policy is being perpetrated with increasing shamelessness and impudence. Counting as it does on the United States to use its veto power in the Security Council, the Zionist entity sees no reason to abandon its repressive and aggressive policies in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan vehemently condemns Israel and the United States for their inhuman, anti-Islamic and anti-Arab policies and practices directed against Islamic and Arab States and peoples.

No matter how significant the implications of recent acts of desecration and profanation may be, one should never lose sight of the fact that the main and basic factor responsible for these and hundreds of similar actions is the occupation by Israel of the territories belonging to Palestinians and other Arabs.

Therefore, there can be no meaningful and lasting solution that can lead to an effective and permanent end to the present volatile situation unless all Israeli forces of occupation and colonial administration are withdrawn from the territories they have illegally occupied since 1967. Such a withdrawal would pave the way for the Palestinian people freely to exercise their inalienable national rights, including the right to establish an independent State of their own in Palestine under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The international community has repeatedly expressed its views on the ways and means of achieving such an end. The General Assembly has adopted a series of resolutions supported by an overwhelming majority of nations calling for an early convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East in which the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, would participate on an equal footing with other parties concerned.

(Mr. Zarif, Afghanistan)

The continuing turmoil in the Middle East should impel us to redouble our efforts for the convening of the proposed international conference on the Middle East and for its success. This is one concrete outcome we hope would emerge from the Council's consideration of the present item.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Chinese): I thank the representative of Afghanistan for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Yugoslavia. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. GOLOB (Yugoslavia): For the second time this month the Security Council is engaged in consideration of the consequences of occupation of foreign territories and the denial of the right of peoples to self-determination, freedom and independent development.

The Security Council is once again called upon to deal with the situation in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories where those rights have been ruthlessly trampled upon for a long time. There has been no let-up in the policy of aggression and expansion by Israel, despite the repeated affirmation of the General Assembly and the Security Council that the acquisition of territories by military means is inadmissible and illegal.

The Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), on behalf of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr. Yasser Arafat, has informed us of yet another attempt to infringe further on the status of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Jordan informed the Security Council that human rights are being violated and that those violations are protected by the occupying authorities.

(Mr. Golob, Yugoslavia)

The developments in Jerusalem have taken a turn for the worse, and the same goes for the situation in other parts of occupied Palestinian and Arab land. In the long years of the Israeli occupation we have witnessed a number of serious incidents on which the Security Council and the General Assembly have passed judgement and have requested the occupying force to cease the illegitimate measures aimed at changing the status of the City of Jerusalem, as well as that of other parts of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

It has been stated repeatedly - and it is proper to repeat it now - that each new measure of the forces of occupation undermines the prospects for a peaceful and just solution to the crisis in the entire region of the Middle East. However, the aggressor continues to expropriate Arab land and to construct illegal settlements, all this through use of force and faits accomplis with the aim of consolidating its grip and in order to make its domination permanent.

The status of the City of Jerusalem has, in a sense, become a symbol of the struggle against the alien Power and alien will. The international community cannot turn a blind eye to the continued occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. It cannot reconcile itself to ruthless encroachments on foreign lands and on foreign property, to the trampling upon human dignity and the elementary right of peoples to existence.

Together with other non-aligned countries, Yugoslavia has always maintained that peace and security in the Middle East, like peace and security anywhere else in the world, can be achieved only by honouring the rights of peoples to self-determination and independence.

The last ministerial Conference of countries members of the Non-Aligned Movement held at Luanda, Angola, reiterated full support for the just struggle of

(Mr. Golob, Yugoslavia)

the Palestinians. Non-aligned countries firmly believe that the crisis in the Middle East can best be solved through negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. The convening of an international conference on the Middle East in the framework of the United Nations constitutes the best means to a just, lasting and comprehensive solution.

It is appropriate to repeat once again that a just, lasting and comprehensive solution can be achieved only on the basis of the withdrawal of Israel from all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

Peace in the Middle East can be established only on the basis of the implementation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, independence and a State of its own, and on the basis of full respect for the rights of all peoples and States of the area to an independent and secure development within internationally recognized borders.

(Mr. Golob, Yugoslavia)

No solution is possible without the participation or at the expense of the Palestinian people. The Palestine Liberation Organization, as its sole and legitimate representative, must participate on a footing of equality in negotiations and conferences on the question of Palestine and the establishment of peace in the Middle East. The Palestinian people has shown time and again its resolve not to give in to aggression. It has earned our respect and it deserves our support. The United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, must continue to render support for the attainment and full exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights to self-determination and independence.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Chinese): The next speaker is the representative of Nicaragua. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. ICAZA GALLARD (Nicaragua) (interpretation from Spanish): Since this is the first time I have spoken in the Security Council this year, I wish first of all, Sir, to congratulate you most warmly on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. We are convinced that your experience and diplomatic skill as the representative of a country that has always supported just causes guarantees the success of the Council's work this month.

I would also extend my congratulations to your predecessor as President, Ambassador Bassole of Burkina Faso, on the excellent way in which he led the Council's work last month. I take this opportunity, too, to congratulate the new members of the Council: Bulgaria, Congo, Ghana, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. We wish them every success in the discharge of their responsibilities.

My delegation has listened very attentively to the present debate, during which we have received detailed information on the recent Israeli acts of aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem (Al-Quds). We have studied

(Mr. Icaza Gallard, Nicaragua)

equally attentively the final communiqué of the tenth session of the Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held on 21 and 22 January in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco.

The events that occurred in Jerusalem on 8 and 14 January certainly demonstrate once again the Israeli determination to encourage actions for the Judaization, at any cost, of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

The Holy City of Jerusalem, which for so many centuries was an example of religious tolerance, has witnessed unprecedented religious violence since the Holy City fell into the Zionist grip. Throughout history, we have seen that other Powers have occupied Jerusalem but at least have had the decency to respect the Holy Places and to allow religious practices.

We have heard the representative of Israel state that his Government respects the Holy Places and religious practices in the territories, including Jerusalem, that it occupies - illegally. What, then, is the meaning of the attempts at arson that took place in 1969 against the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque? What is the meaning of the excavations that were carried out near that Mosque, under the pretext of archaeological research but with the real aim of undermining and weakening the bases of the Holy Place so that it would collapse? And what is the meaning of this most recent profanation which is the reason for the convening of the present series of Council meetings? These are official acts of Israeli policy, confirmed by the so-called visit to the sanctuary of an official of the Israeli Cabinet: the infamous perpetrator of genocide at Sabra and Shatila, Ariel Sharon.

These are dangerous acts of provocation against Palestinians and against the Arab nation, acts which are an affront to the profound religious conscience of the Islamic peoples.

In many resolutions, the Security Council has determined that the administrative and legislative measures taken by Israel in Jerusalem have no validity. Resolutions 465 (1980), 476 (1980) and 478 (1980) called on Israel to rescind the measures taken to alter the character and status of Jerusalem.

The Security Council, the body entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security, cannot allow Israel once again to flout the universal call for it to put an end to its acts of aggression and its illegal occupation of territories. The Council must demand that Israel respect international law, that it respect the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, and that it respect the spirit and the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The Security Council must demand that Israel comply with resolution 271 (1969), in which it called upon Israel not to engage in acts of profanation of the Islamic Holy Places and to leave in the hands of the Islamic religious authorities everything relating to those Holy Places.

The events that have required the present series of meetings of the Security Council are even more serious than those that occurred in 1969, since this time the acts of sacrilege have been committed directly and openly by Israeli authorities. It is clear to everyone that Israel is flouting the international community, protected as it is by the unconditional support it receives from the most powerful country on Earth. Israel would not be in Jerusalem, Israel would not be in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, Israel would not be violating international law, Israel would not be offending the Islamic world, there would be peace in the Middle East, if it were not for the support and blessing that its acts receive from its mightiest ally. That ally also invades countries, that ally also oppresses peoples, that ally also practises State terrorism and describes national liberation movements as terrorist, that ally also places itself outside the framework of international law.

(Mr. Icaza Gallard, Nicaragua)

Why is it that, in the case of the occupied Arab territories, that ally is not concerned about the human rights of the Palestinians, rights that are trampled under foot daily by the occupation forces? Why is it that, in the case of the Muslims, it is considered that there are no violations of religious freedom? Why is it that that ally, which speaks out so loudly in defence of that principle in other places, does not in this case raise its voice to protest in favour of the Muslims?

(Mr. Icaza Gallard, Nicaragua)

We once again reaffirm our firm and resolute solidarity with the fraternal Palestinian people, with its sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, with the Arab nation and with our Islamic brothers, today wounded by the Zionist arrogance.

We hope that the Council will measure up to its responsibility and act firmly and resolutely in the face of this new threat by Israel to international peace and security.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Chinese): I thank the representative of Nicaragua for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Yemen. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. BASENDWAH (Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, and, through you, the other members of the Council for permitting me to speak at this meeting.

The Security Council is today considering the latest Israeli act of aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque, just as in the past it has considered similar Israeli acts of aggression against other Holy Places. There can be no doubt that the act of aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque is part of a long series of Zionist acts of aggression against Holy Places in the occupied Arab territories.

I do not think that in considering the new Israeli act of aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque the Security Council will be able to prevent the Israeli ruling circles from continuing their acts of aggression against the Holy Places and stop it treating with contempt a billion Muslims, scattered throughout the world, unless the Council uses all its powers and imposes the necessary sanctions against Israel, the expansionist aggressor.

As other representatives have already said, and as everyone knows, the Al-Aqsa Mosque represents for us Muslims, both Arabs and non-Arabs, the First kiblah to

(Mr. Basendwah, Yemen)

which we turn in our prayers and the third of our sanctuaries. Israel's acts of aggression committed from time to time against the Mosque should not be passed over in silence, for Holy Places throughout the world, regardless of the political régime of the country concerned, must be respected.

Israel, however, has gone beyond all permissible bounds in its intransigence and has flouted all recognized values. We Muslims respect other faiths, particularly the Jewish faith. In many Arab countries there are Jews who practise their faith in full freedom. Their temples are well looked after and subject to no kind of aggression, neither desecrated nor violated, either by the authorities or by citizens.

In the past the Al-Aqsa Mosque and other mosques have repeatedly been profaned by Israel, but the Al-Aqsa Mosque has been attacked more often than any other because it represents a Holy Place venerated by the Arabs and all Muslims. The acts of aggression first took the form of isolated actions by individuals - fanatics and extremists - but they have gradually become official policy, with the blessing of Israeli officials, applied openly. We have only to look at who carried out and orchestrated the latest acts of aggression - members of the Israeli Knesset, whose function it is to promulgate laws and see that they are respected.

It would be a drastic mistake to believe that the repeated acts of aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and other Holy Places are the result of the work of a handful of fanatics or extremists, or merely the behaviour of certain fanatical Jews inspired by their hatred of Islam as a religion. In fact, those actions are part of a sinister plan which Israeli officials are desperately trying to implement to do away with the non-Jewish nature of the city of Jerusalem. They are trying to destroy all the Holy Places, whether Muslim or Christian, to see to it that the city of Jerusalem becomes a city reserved for the Zionists and Jews.

The Israeli authorities think that such actions can be the ultimate means of liberating the Jewish people. Here it is useful to recall what Rabbi Gorin said in

(Mr. Basendwah, Yemen)

a speech to a delegation of Jewish rabbis during a visit to the Al-Aqsa Mosque in 1967, when the war had only just ended and the smoke had hardly cleared. He said:

"Only now can I say to you that all Jews throughout the world must stop longing for Jerusalem in their prayers. Now we are dealing with a real sanctuary. We are not dealing with an illusion. We are dealing with something we can touch and see and in which we can come and go."

I do not want to repeat what other speakers have already said - in particular, the Permanent Representative of Qatar, Mr. Hamad Abdelaziz Al-Kawari - about the attitude taken by the Second Caliph Omar Ibn Al-Khatab, disciple of the Prophet Mohammed, when he entered Al-Quds Al-Sharif and refused to pray in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in order that it should not become a place of worship for Muslims.

Our religion demands that we show tolerance for others and respect for all other religions. However, Israel has expelled from their lands and homes those with the right to live there. It has thrown them into prisons and kept them in detention in camps. Those who remain at liberty have been subjected to various forms of oppression and terrorism for many years, particularly when Israel saw that the international community was unable to ensure respect for its resolutions and for the law. Israel then began to engage in a policy of Judaization of the city of Jerusalem and to engage in acts of aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and other Islamic Holy Places.

The act of aggression that is the subject of our debate today will not be the last to give rise to a resolution on the subject, unless the Council can adopt a firm resolution that will put an end to such Israeli practices. Unfortunately, there is a State that continues to use its right of veto to prevent the adoption of such sanctions.

(Mr. Basendwah, Yemen)

We would voice the hope that this time at least the United States will support the truth and that it will finally show respect for and act in accordance with its own Constitution, which professes tolerance and freedom of religion.

In conclusion, acts of aggression against Islamic Holy Places in Jerusalem and other Palestinian and Arab cities are of concern not only to Palestinians and Arabs; they are of concern to all Muslims, wherever they may be.

This act of aggression should focus our attention on the matter. It should be a source of concern, for acts of aggression of the kind committed against Al Aqsa and other mosques represent a serious precedent that threatens the international community.

Here we are dealing with an act infringing on the freedom of all individuals throughout the world to practise their religion as they see fit, free from all types of violation and acts of aggression. We hope that this Council will live up to its role and, inspired by a sense of responsibility, use its prerogatives to avert other acts of aggression and other acts of desecration of Holy Places. We hope also that it will thus show that it sincerely wishes to see respected the rights of the inhabitants of that region of the world, who have been deprived of their right to live in their homeland in full freedom and to practice their religion as they see fit.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Chinese): The representative of Jordan wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. KASRAMI (Jordan): I should like to make a brief statement in reply to some of the allegations made by the representative of Israel in his statement on Tuesday.

(Mr. Kasrawi, Jordan)

The representative of Israel tried to give the impression that nothing happened in Al-Khalil on 17 January. I will confine myself to quoting what The Washington Post reported in its issue of 24 January on both incidents, the one in Jerusalem and that in Al-Khalil:

"In the other case a request by Jewish settlers in the predominantly Arab West Bank city of Hebron to hold unprecedented Friday-evening prayers in the main hall of the Mosque of Abraham led to a confrontation last week with local Islamic leaders that ended with Israeli soldiers backing the settlers."

The representative of Israel mentioned the alleged desecration of a Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives. The truth of the matter is that any damage to the cemetery was done when Israeli forces barricaded themselves in it to bombard the Old City of Jerusalem in an attempt to occupy it at the end of 1947 and the beginning of 1948. As soon as the Jordanian civil administration had been established in the City of Jerusalem the municipality undertook the task of maintaining and protecting the cemetery. On the other hand, let us see what happened to Mamillah cemetery, in West Jerusalem. That cemetery, one of the most hallowed of Muslim cemeteries, was at least 1,000 years old. It contained the remains of great men from all fields of achievement and from every period of history, yet it had been turned into a public park by the Israelis.

Regarding synagogues in the Old City, the truth of the matter is that some months before the end of the British Mandate the Israelis decided to plant close to a thousand of their troops in the Jewish quarter of the Old City as a springboard to be used from within the Old City when the appropriate time arrived. That was precisely what happened, and the synagogues were used as places from which to bombard the rest of the city. When the two-pronged attack from within as well as from without had reached the alarming proportions it reached on 16 May 1948, Jordanian troops came to the rescue and, in co-operation with the local Jerusalem

(Mr. Kasrawi, Jordan)

resistance, succeeded in overcoming the Israeli force. The Israeli force was taken prisoner, accorded the best treatment and released a little while later under the auspices of the Red Cross.

Those facts, especially those pertaining to the synagogue, are to be found in the memoirs of an Israeli army officer, Dr. Bernard Joseph, who was the Military Governor of Jerusalem in 1948.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Chinese): The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply. I invite him to make his statement.

Mr. TERZI (Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)): In his statement on 28 January the representative of Tel Aviv sought to insult the intelligence of the members of the Council and to create confusion in their minds. He referred to the Jordanian letter of 9 January, which spoke of 20 Knesset members, while the United Arab Emirates letter of 10 January spoke of five.

By way of clarification, there were three members of the Knesset Interior Committee, two other Knesset members not members of that Committee and, if I recall correctly, the United Arab Emirates letter reported that there were Gershon Solomon and a number of others. So the question is not one of figures or a game of numbers. The representative of Tel Aviv did not deny the fact that there was such an incident. Whether there were five members of the Knesset, accompanied by a number of thugs, or 20 members of the Knesset is not the issue.

Let me report what the Jerusalem Post - an Israeli newspaper published in Jerusalem - wrote in referring to the case:

"The trouble began on Wednesday morning" - 8 January - "as the Knesset Interior Committee, including a few other MKs" - members of the Knesset - "and photographers, approached Solomon's Stables, in the southeastern corner of the Mount, today the site of two important mosques.

"Led by Committee Chairman Dov Shilansky, the lawmakers had come to the site to investigate charges that illegal construction had taken place."

So here we can see again that the so-called Committee from the Knesset was trying to investigate charges of illegal construction - charges which were denied by the city engineer and the municipality responsible for such acts.

(Mr. Terzi, PLO)

Let us go back to that article in the Jerusalem Post:

"Jerusalem police branch Assistant Commander Haim Aibaldes, who accompanied the group, said, 'We had a full force - about 20 border patrolmen and policemen onhand to escort the group. If all had gone according to schedule, without the complications largely inspired by the Knesset members themselves, this number would have been more than sufficient'".

So, again, we do know that the provocation and the complications were inspired by the Knesset members and that the occupation authorities were represented by their police force and that, had it not been for the complications of the Knesset members, the incident would not have taken place.

(Mr. Terzi, PLO)

As a matter of fact, The Jerusalem Post continues further to say, "Labour Party secretary-general Usi Baram described the visit as an 'hysterical provocation intended to further divide the nation'".

So here we can see that the Knesset members, together with members of the police force and the border patrol, were all involved in what happened.

I was quoting from The Jerusalem Post, International Edition, week ending 18 January 1986.

Again I should like to see how all this was described by the Israeli people. I think that the people and the Government are at diametrically opposite ends, because the editorial comment of 9 January 1986 on these provocations ends by saying that

"while there can be no excuse for the violence that took place, there can also be no denying the provocation that preceded it."

Consequently, what happened on 8 January was provoked, and I dare say here, deliberately by some sectors of the Israeli Government because it was followed by a visit by a member of the cabinet the following day, 9 January, surrounded again by members of the border patrol.

Now members are aware that His Eminence the Mufti of Jerusalem sent a telegram to His Excellency the Secretary-General, wherein he referred only to what happened on 14 January and not 8 January. The spark that led to concern here was the violation, desecration and provocation of 8 January and not 14 January.

I mention this only to clarify that members of the Council were being led down a vicious and malicious path by the representative of Tel Aviv, who wanted to insult their intelligence and relied on the possibility that they might not have read what The Jerusalem Post mentioned.

(Mr. Terzi, DLO)

In reply to another element, the representative of Tel Aviv said

"In Jerusalem, the focus of this discussion, 58 synagogues were totally demolished by the Arabs in 1948". (S/PV.2648, p. 13)

Here I think ignorance is bliss. Now 58 synagogues in the Maghribi Quarter, which people refer to as the Jewish Quarter, is a big lie. I come from Jerusalem. I have lived all my life in the Old City. I walked almost every day in the streets of the Maghribi Quarter, which is the property of Muslims from the Maghreb, that is, from Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Algeria. This is Waqf, a religious trust. Eighty per cent of that property is Waqf property, that is, Muslim property. The other 20 per cent is the property of others, in part Jews who were Palestinian Jerusalemites.

I admit that there were two synagogues. I know that, unfortunately, those synagogues were desecrated by the Zionists when they converted them into sniping posts to shoot at Palestinians in 1948. Those two synagogues - I am sorry to go into details, but this is important - stood high and, as those people who know Jerusalem know, covered the entrance into Jerusalem from the east. So anybody coming from the east to Jerusalem would be spotted from the vantage point and observation post on those two synagogues, which were converted into sniping posts. Of course they were military posts that were demolished.

Now concerning the other so-called synagogues. We know - because we have lived with Jews all our lives in Jerusalem - that it was the custom in every small community that a part of a building, a room, could be consecrated for ritual, mostly on Friday nights, where the people from that building gathered to pray. So it was some sort of chapel within the building. If we have to consider them as synagogues, then I would say to my brothers who are of the Christian faith and might keep an icon and oil lamp in their homes and called it a cathedral that that would, I think, be an exaggeration of the situation.

(Mr. Terzi, PLO)

But again the big question is: Who demolished the Muslim Waqf in the Maghribi Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem? It was not the Arabs, it was the invading Israeli army that ordered the demolition of all the buildings in that quarter in order to have a parking lot opposite the Wailing Wall, which is a sacred wall - Ha'et Al-Buraq, as it is referred to by the Muslims because it is linked to the night voyage of the Prophet. So the destruction was not carried out by the Arabs; it was the invading Israeli army that ordered the demolition of that quarter, which was not Jewish but Arab property, and specifically Islamic Waqf property.

I thought I would mention those facts in order to enlighten the Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Chinese): There are no further speakers. The Security Council will hold its next meeting to continue its consideration of the item on its agenda at 3.30 p.m.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

