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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Letter dated 18 November 1974 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, on behalf of the Arab Member States, to request that the enclosed statement by the Palestine Liberation Organization on the situation in the occupied territories be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 108, entitled "Question of Palestine".

(Signed) A. Esmat ABDEL MEGUID  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement by the Palestine Liberation Organization  
on the situation in the occupied territories

The masses of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories have been expressing their commitment and support for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) through accepted means and practices, such as strikes and demonstrations. They have been expressing their support for the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the people of Palestine and as the authority which has been working diligently to put an end to the occupation.

These expressions of support portray the solidarity of our people under Israeli occupation and coincide with the position taken by the PLO during the present session of the General Assembly.

Yet the occupation authorities have used the most barbaric, oppressive and inhuman methods to combat these legitimate means of expression. Scores of civilians were wounded, scores were detained and some killed as a result of the utilization of tanks to disperse the demonstrators. A 16-year-old girl was the victim of such measures when she was run down by one of the Israeli tanks.

The delegation of the PLO would like to bring to the attention of Member States the oppressive measures used against the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. These measures have been accelerated in cruelty and in severity as the popular resistance and support have increased.

The Israeli occupation authorities during the past seven years have tried by every possible means at their disposal to suppress the Palestinian resistance. In doing so, it was violating the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions. a/ The delegation of the PLO feels that the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories and the suppressive measures used by the occupying authorities demand an immediate and effective intervention from the United Nations to put an end to the outrageous and inhuman oppression of the Palestinian people.

Our people, under the leadership of the PLO, through its popular bases and through the massive support of all segments of its population, have categorically expressed its rejection of occupation. This necessitates that the United Nations and the countries of the world should assume their responsibilities now to bring an immediate end to occupation.

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a/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.