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משלחת ישראל לעצרת הכללית  
של האומות המאוחדות  
ISRAEL DELEGATION TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

800 SECOND AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017  
OXFORD 7-5500

STATEMENT

AMERICAN BY JEWISH  
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AMBASSADOR URI M. GORDON

REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 43RD REGULAR SESSION

ITEM No. 77 - THE SITUATION IN JUDEA, SAMARIA AND THE GAZA DISTRICT

22 NOVEMBER 1988

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

On many occasions the Government of Israel has repeated its desire to enter direct negotiations with both Arab governments and Palestinians. We have also repeated many times our desire to reach a peace settlement within which the final status of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District will be determined.

Yet, since early December 1987, Israel has been confronted with widespread violence in these areas. Within days of the outbreak of violence the forces of extremism took the initiative.

Roving bands of masked men compelled people to take part in riots against their will. Shopkeepers were forced to close their stores. Managers had to close their factories. Students were pressured to leave their classrooms. Local transportation companies were forced to cease operations. Those who refused to obey these orders were branded collaborators, harrassed and in numerous cases murdered. Vehicles transporting Arab workers to their workplaces in Israel were attacked with rocks and petrol bombs.

From the statements of many delegations and according to frequent media images, an uninvolved observer would think that Israel is facing peaceful demonstrations. In fact it is confronting large-scale rioting and widespread violence. Gangs of youths who hurl heavy rocks and iron bars at Israelis with the clear intent to kill are not "demonstrators". Ambushing cars and school buses and attacking their passengers with petrol bombs - women with their babies, innocent families taking a vacation, pupils on their way to school - is not a "demonstration". Attacks with knives are not "demonstrations". Murdering Israeli civilians who go shopping is not a "demonstration".

The people and organizations who perpetrate this violence have one purpose in mind. It is not the establishment of political dialogue. It is not the provision for negotiations. Quite the contrary -- it is to prevent dialogue, to obstruct negotiations, and to undermine Israel, if not in one blow, then in stages, or in their technical jargon - in Phases. The simplistic explanation of previous speakers which attributes the disturbances to one single reason - Israeli occupation, is just not good enough.

Let me share with you some relevant quotes. Abd El-Hamid El-Saih, chairman of the Palestine National Council, said in

"Al-Shara", 22 August 1988, while preparing for the PNC meeting in Algiers:

"We will take what we can and afterwards we will demand the rest of the territory. We are not opposed to getting a state which would encompass a quarter or half of our territory, afterwards we will demand the rest."

Abu Iyad, number two in the Fatah hierarchy, said in "Al-Anba", 7 September 1988:

"We must propose a political initiative, which is not new in terms of the phased program... The initiative will provide a new instrument for moving the phased program along."

The "Islamic Jihad", tells us that the aim of the confrontation is "jihad until Palestine is liberated -- all of Palestine". They go further. Not only do they want to destroy Israel, but they also urge "jihad against all Jews, the brothers of monkeys, bloodsuckers and warmongers". The Covenant of Hamas - ("Islamic Resistance Movement") - yet another "spokesman" for the Palestinians, proclaims that:

"Israel will continue to exist until Islam will annihilate it, just as it obliterated others before it. The aim of Hamas is to establish an Islamic Republic in all of Palestine."

All the above statements are in line with the constitutional document of the PLO, namely the Palestinian National Charter, which stipulates that the State of Israel should be destroyed and replaced by a PLO state.

As for the meaning of the recent meeting in Algiers, let me quote from a statement of my Government, dated 20 November 1988:

"The declaration of the P.N.C. is nothing but an additional operation of disinformation, fostering illusions and attempting to mislead world public opinion. The PLO has not changed its basic character. It has not changed its charter, its policy and its adherence to terrorism. States genuinely interested in furthering peace in the Middle East must recognize that the PLO was and is the main stumbling block to peace. It is essential that they therefore refrain from supporting and recognizing any of its declarations.

Peace between Israel and its neighbours will be reached only by negotiation, and this latest exercise of the P.N.C. prevents any serious and helpful negotiation. Those who assist the PLO in this regard postpone and prevent the achievement of peace in our region."

In this regard, the Vice Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, His Excellency Mr. Shimon Peres, on 18 November 1988, declared that in the complex and fragile setting of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Algiers resolutions seem to have further complicated prospects for a solution. They have violated the essential pre-requisite: that no unilateral step can substitute for a negotiated settlement. Hence, any recognition or legitimation of these declarations can only serve to reinforce the illusion that the outcome of the desired negotiations can be pre-judged by unilateral acts or declarations.

The Vice Premier added that since the issuing of the official text of the so-called "Declaration of Independence" and the wave of unofficial versions of the "political statement" that was to accompany it, it became apparent that neither the assumed acceptance of resolution 242, nor the implied recognition of Israel, nor the alleged abandonment of terrorism have taken place. Indeed the critical and careful

balance represented by resolution 242 was violated and distorted to the point of threatening to undermine the only commonly accepted basis for a solution. Terrorism inside Israel and the territories was specifically legitimized and even the outdated General Assembly resolution 181 (of 1947) - overtaken by events as recognized by resolution 242 - was deformed so as to rule out any interpretation of an implied acceptance of a Jewish state on any part of mandatory Palestine.

The Vice Premier concluded by saying that all peace-loving states should avoid any step which would lend a hand to the PLO's attempt to substitute ambiguity for clear decisions. No support should be given for an act that is bound to prove counterproductive.

Mr. Chairman,

I do not need to tell members of this Committee that the fantasies of destroying Israel burn not only in the hearts of Palestinian extremists. You have heard representatives of member states in this Committee who expressed similar positions here.

I will quote only one representative of a country described sometimes as "pragmatic". The Permanent

Representative of Saudi Arabia to the UN stated in this Committee on 9 November 1988:

"Those who rushed in the United Nations General Assembly, in 1947, to give the land of the Arabs to non-Arabs, in order to appease Zionism, ... have committed a historic error which should be redressed - in order to restore normalcy to the region, to rectify the march of the historical process on the land, so that stability is restored to the region and to its people."

Members of this Committee have witnessed these dreams and this arrogance when other representatives of Arab countries gave vent to similar feelings and fantasies. Some of those representatives can not even bring themselves to pronounce the correct name of my country. Some even indulge in pronouncing anti-Israeli obscenities the same way some adolescents enjoy articulating obscenities.

And a word on those Arab delegates who drew a comparison between Zionism and Israel on one side, and between racism and even Nazism, on the other.

They are at the forefront of the disciples and torch-bearers of the Mufti Haj Amin al-Husseini, the head of the Palestine Higher Committee, who led the fanatic attacks against Zionism during the British Mandate and who joined Hitler during the Second World War and even resided in Berlin. He contributed units of trained soldiers to the Nazi forces and was promised by Hitler that he would be allowed to annihilate the Jews in Palestine, once Hitler would have won the war. The Nazi beast was destroyed only after it succeeded in annihilating 6,000,000 of the Jews of Europe. Consequently, some Arab countries jumped on the band-wagon to join the coalition of nations that fought Hitler just in time to become honourable members of the United Nations. What the mighty Nazi beast failed to accomplish, the destruction of the Jews of Palestine, they tried to achieve when the State of Israel was born. In 1948 they tried to throw us into the sea and fortunately did not succeed in their endeavor. Thus they come again and again to this organization to complain about the consequences of their own doing.

The burning desire to see Israel destroyed, also feeds the roots of the violent events in the territories administered by Israel and adds to the festering in the refugee camps.

In all parts of the world, ghettos and slums breed hatred and violence. Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District are no exceptions. In Palestinian refugee camps in these territories and in neighboring Arab countries, thousands of men, women and children live in squalid conditions. They and their descendants have been assigned to live in the lowest caste by their own brothers who rejected every single UN initiated project to resettle them.

They are doomed to belong to this caste -- without property, in terrible bitterness and hatred. The camps are a hotbed of hate, and residents are being exploited to provoke and continue the riots. In my statement in this Committee on 15 November 1988, I focussed on this subject and on Israel's resettlement projects.

Mr. Chairman,

Over and above the desire to destroy Israel and the explosive situation in the refugee camps - created, maintained and nurtured by their own Arab leaders - one cannot understand developments in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District in isolations from the rest of the Middle East, any more than one can explain the weather in Manhattan in

isolation from the larger area surrounding it. An epidemic of extremism, fanaticism and violence is sweeping the vast expanses of the Middle East, including of course Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District.

Germes of this epidemic of extremism and fanaticism ignited and nourished the Iran-Iraq War which raged for seven years, consuming over one million dead. During this war, Iraq conjured the ghost of poison gas that had been long ago entombed by the civilized world. This regional epidemic ravaged Lebanon for thirteen years and left over 120,000 dead in a seemingly endless Civil War.

During an uprising in Yemen in 1986, reportedly 15,000 people were murdered. In September 1970, the PLO staged a Palestinian uprising in Jordan; Jordan put an end to that uprising; 10,000 people were killed in the process. Saudi Arabia put a quick end to riots in Mecca during the 1986 Haj; 600 were killed. During February and March 1982, the city of Hama was destroyed by government artillery and 15,000 inhabitants were slaughtered in order to put an end to an uprising. In October 1988 an uprising in Algeria is smothered with over 500 killed.

Concepts of human rights and democracy are nonexistent there. No freedom of movement. No freedom of religion. No freedom of speech. Due process of law is a strange and obscure notion. When the germs of the epidemic strike at an Arab country, not much time is wasted on tear gas, police sticks or even plastic bullets. Familiar, traditional and drastic cures are used.

Yet when it comes to the manner in which local Arab governments treat uprisings in their own countries, we do not hear from the media, from governments or from international organizations. The public outcry is reserved for the restricted and limited actions of Israel, while confronting this epidemic.

The PLO is in the forefront of those who strike a pose of protectors of human rights when it comes to the situation in the territories. However when the Moslem Brothers were drowned in blood in Hama in February-March 1982, it took only a few days until the head of the PLO met with the President of Syria on 22 March 1982. It follows very naturally that only a short time after the bloodbath in the streets of Algiers, the meeting of the leaders of the PLO should take place in that city.

While we are determined not to yield to violence and to enforce the law when it is violated, we do it with the humane concepts prescribed and guaranteed by our own democratic society and institutions, as well as by our legal system which is independent and impartial and strictly obeyed.

In over eleven months of violence, the number of Palesinians killed in the territories as of 14 November, reached 225. This is not a number that results from brutal and excessive use of force for over eleven months of widespread riots and attacks on civilians and troops. We are not indifferent to casualties. There is a Jewish saying that every soul is a universe unto itself. We certainly regret every loss of life. But in the face of unjust accusations hurled against us, it is only fair to bear in mind the right perspectives and proportions.

When a man hammers his fist against a table, he will bruise it. If he continues, his fist will start to bleed. No doubt, when the image of a bloody fist is displayed and broadcast across the world, and in this organization, the feelings of compassion and sympathy are aroused. Yet people often forget how easy it is to stop the bleeding. Stop the

violence. Don't bang your fist against the table. Rather come to it and use it for negotiations. We are proposing just that.

Mr. Chairman,

There has been a great amount of misleading information about measures taken by Israel to stem these attacks, riots and murders. Israel is accused of deliberately confronting women and children.

Israel's soldiers do not deliberately confront anyone. For over eleven months now, the instigators of the riots have not hesitated to hide behind young children and women, putting them in the front ranks armed with lethal weapons. They have dragged schoolchildren out of classrooms, and women out of the home. They have intimidated and brainwashed them into participating in the riots, and regrettably in the ensuing violence, some are hurt. Could there be a more blatant violation of human rights than sending women and children to attack soldiers?

When parents renounce their natural responsibilities to prevent their teenage offsprings from attacking soldiers or

civilians and keeping them away from sites of violence, this task devolves on the Israeli security forces.

Those who condemned Iran for sending brainwashed teenage "volunteers" to confront Iraqi troops in the Iran-Iraq War, should also condemn leaders who send teenagers to attack civilians and soldiers in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. But instead they condemn Israel for the confrontation. Selective morality and double standards carry little moral weight and are a disservice to the cause of peace.

Israel is accused of obstructing medical treatment in the territories and violating the sanctity of places of worship.

On the contrary, it is the instigators of the riots themselves who have abused hospitals and who have warehoused weapons in mosques. For many months now, these extremists have transported weapons in ambulances, hidden terrorists in hospitals, and stored weapons caches in mosques. Yet, even under provocation, Israel compares favorably with other countries in respecting places of worship.

Israel is accused of closing schools in the administered territories and hindering academic freedom.

Israel has always promoted the development of educational institutions and higher learning in the territories. Since 1967, Israel has been responsible for the establishment and maintenance of five universities in these areas. And as long as students and faculty are dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge the doors will remain open. However, when educational institutions are used as bases for coordinating and initiating riots and violence, the Israeli authorities have the responsibility to take appropriate steps.

There is a way to guarantee the functioning of educational institutions. In the Gaza District several veiled youngsters entered classes and forced students to go into the streets and attack the security forces. Parents and teachers in those schools began standing guard at the gates of these institutions to prevent the entrance of the veiled youngsters. In these schools studies have proceeded regularly.

As for academic freedom, again Israel has the responsibility to counter the flames of incitement, and in

this regard, it has prohibited specific literature. Let me give you, for example, passages from two textbooks that have been banned:

"The Palestinian Problem in its various stages", Part II, Muhammad Azath Druza. The following quotation is one example of the fare dished out in this book:

"Palestine will be cleansed of the Zionist abomination and will become purely Arabic. The Jewish State in Palestine is an island in a broad Arab-rooted sea; that sea is gathering strength, terror and turbulence around it, and will bring about its collapse so that it will survive no more." (p.351)

Another example of a profound academic treatise is "The War of Resistance - A Guide for Freedom Fighters" by Colonel Abu El-Taib, the commander of Fatah's "Force 17". Colonel Abu El-Taib knows that the mission of smuggling arms into the territories is difficult. Therefore he turns to the "fighters in the homeland" and, through his writings, instructs them on "how to make homemade weapons". The author goes on to explain that "the current work is the fruit of efforts to achieve results until the defeat of the occupiers and the

establishment of a democratic state on every bit of Palestine is attained." Academic freedom can not be stretched to cover such literature.

Israel is accused of using excessive and arbitrary force in restoring order in the territories.

In its response to violence Israel has a solemn obligation to maintain order. I cite Article 64 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 43 of the Hague Regulations of 1907. Israel implements this obligation with maximum restraint. Soldiers may use firearms only as a last resort and only when they are in imminent danger of losing their lives. Unlike some countries which have condemned us, Israel has never issued "shoot at sight" orders, and certainly not "shoot to kill orders". Except in such extreme cases, only normal police methods have been used. The use of plastic bullets, for example, which are not intended to kill, was approved with strict guidelines. The aim of these bullets is not deterrence through injury as some have claimed, but rather the general dispersal of violent rioters and stopping the harm they are inflicting.

In carrying out these duties under very difficult circumstances, there have been individual cases of deviation

from the strict orders. In each of these cases there has been full investigation and appropriate steps have been taken to ensure that they do not recur.

In particularly difficult cases of violence curfews have been put into effect. Claims to the contrary notwithstanding, there has never been any food shortage during these curfews. This has been confirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Israel is also accused of violating the civil rights of suspected agitators, especially their right to due process. Those residents of the territories who are suspected of having committed security offences are dealt with according to international law and the humanitarian provisions of the Geneva Conventions. Trials before military courts are held in accordance with the procedures and rules of evidence obtained in the courts of law in Western states. Every suspect has the right to be represented by an attorney of his choice.

The ability of residents of the administered areas to petition the High Court of Justice guarantees the maintenance of the rule of law.

At times it has been found necessary to resort to the use of administrative detention. The legal provisions which permit this are in full conformity with Article 78 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. This Convention explicitly recognizes the legality of administrative detention, which can be imposed for security reasons. This assembly received many and conflicting figures for administrative detainees. The correct number as of 14 November 1988 is 1509 persons.

It should be emphasized that administrative detention is not intended as punishment for violations committed, but rather to prevent the perpetration of illegal acts by the individual concerned. Such orders are generally invoked only in special circumstances and where there is corroborating evidence from two or more sources that the individual is engaged in illegal acts that involve direct danger to the maintenance of public order, security and to the lives of innocent people.

It is important to note that under a special agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), ICRC representatives must be permitted to meet with detainees within 14 days of arrest, and at regular intervals thereafter. ICRC doctors are permitted to examine any

detainees who complain of improper treatment. Such examinations are performed in complete privacy and a copy of the medical report is promptly delivered to Israeli authorities. The ICRC also serves as a channel to transmit to the authorities complaints of maltreatment made by the detainees. Each complaint is thoroughly investigated and the ICRC is informed of the findings.

Let me mention that in his report to the Security Council dated 21 January 1988, the Secretary General of the U.N. expresses his appreciation for the cooperation extended to the ICRC by Israel. (S/19443 para. 35)

In some very serious cases, to be precise in 32 cases, expulsion orders have been issued, and put into effect. Under regulation 108 of the Defence Emergency Regulations of 1945, which were in force in the territories even before they came under Israel's control, the power to deport is strictly limited to cases in which the presence of the persons in question in the administered areas might endanger security.

Such orders are subject to due process of law. The persons against whom they are made, may appeal to an Advisory Committee, which hears the appellants and their lawyers, and

makes its recommendations accordingly. A final appeal may be submitted to the Supreme Court. A representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross is entitled to be present at all such hearings.

It is often being asserted that these actions are a breach of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. This claim is unfounded. As the distinguished jurist, the late Julius Stone, pointed out, the framers of this article had in mind "large scale transfers of population, whether by mass transfer or transfer of many individuals, to more hostile or dangerous environments, for torture, extermination or slave labour." As many of you know - this article was not intended to refer to cases of expulsion of specific agitators for the purpose of restoring public order, or where the alternative would necessarily be the placing of such persons on trial, with the likelihood of severe sentences being imposed as a result.

In this context, let me mention that in no single case has capital punishment been imposed, not even for the most heinous crimes perpetrated in connection with the recent disturbances or even with Arab terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

This brings me to my final point - the Special Committee's report (A/43/694). The report can be compared to a platform put at the disposal of the unmitigated extremist anti-Israel propaganda.

As all of you know, Israel has a free press. It is quite vigorous and journalists can print whatever they want. This is the nature of any democracy. And it seems that the authors of this report went about collecting "evidence" only to confirm predetermined conclusions. Not only have they selectively gathered articles from the Israeli press that are critical of one action or another. But they also have taken the liberty to "interpret", and distort Israeli press reports. In the Report these have been represented as "summaries" of the Israeli press.

The Special Committee also collected testimonies from a special type of witnesses. Some of them were active members of terrorist organizations who were apprehended in the course of murdering soldiers or civilians. They were sent to jail for long terms. They are only too happy to attack Israel again this time from the comfortable offices of the Special

Committee in Arab capitals or better still from Geneva. This time their weapons are lies which the Committee dutifully presents to the General Assembly.

The use of the term "witness" is misleading. A witness is expected and required to tell "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" to judges who are seeking for this truth. If the witness violates this requirement, he is punishable by law. In the case of the Special Committee these three elements are missing. Here the so called "witness" and the Committee are interested in proving certain conclusions, not in finding the truth. If the witness lies, he is not punished, but praised.

Gifted with the creativity of Shahrazad of "Thousand and one nights", the witnesses report horror stories to the media as well as to representatives of international organizations. They do not lodge complaints with the competent Israeli authorities which scrupulously investigate each complaint, and when justified, take measures against violators. They tell their stories not to reveal the truth, but to harm Israel and gain appreciation of colleagues in order to undermine Israel's image.

The committee also quotes a number of "anonymous witnesses" who relay information about Israeli torture and brutality. Conveniently omitted though, are names, dates and places. In the minds of the authors, these are, no doubt, irrelevant details.

Let me illustrate some of the techniques followed in the Report:

The Special Committee included in its report an annex No.1, which consists of a detailed list of names, dates and places where Palestinians were reportedly killed during the recent violence. This list was contributed by no less a guarantor of truth than the PLO.

According to this list the number of Palestinians killed in the recent violent events up to 30 June, 1988 reached 312. At the same time another U.N. report presented to this very Assembly by another U.N. body puts the number of deaths up to the same date, 30 June, 1988 not as 312 but as 211. See table in UNRWA report A/43/13 p.14. A footnote to that table states: " It is believed that the number of deaths in the table is correct. "

The contradiction between these two numbers of dead presented by the two different UN bodies - both of which are wrong - will be ironed out by a single vote. In the multitude of bodies forums and official reports dealing with the subject, creative imagination can be more valid than facts. An overwhelming automatic majority will always affirm not only that a fable is truth but, that all contradicting fables are the truth.

Even more remarkable are contradicting lies presented not in two separate reports but in one single report of the Committee. In paragraph 337, of the report we read the testimony of an anonymous witness saying that the new I.D. cards which were issued to the inhabitants of the Gaza District are of three colours according to certain ratings. Green for dangerous leaders of the violence in the area, blue for those that did not pay taxes, and red for civilians of the most dangerous category. Another witness in paragraph 431 contributes the information that the new I.D. cards in the Gaza District vary not in accordance with the above ratings, but in accordance with the regions where their bearers reside and that "certain" unspecified "marks or signs" on the card indicate a security rating. The truth is that these two

testimonies presented by the Commission do not only contradict one another but are both figments of the imagination.

But the report does not only bear false witnesses. It even goes further. Regrettably, it gives support to the use of violence.

Let me quote from Paragraph 142:

"For the first time since the beginning of the Uprising, "Protesters" used fire arms in the Gaza Strip, when a side-road mine was activated as a Security vehicle drove by."

The Committee attributes to two Israeli dailies "Haaretz" and "Jerusalem Post", the use of the word "Protesters" to describe the perpetrators. This is not true. The word "Protesters" is a remarkable breakthrough registered by the Committee. It does not appear in the two newspapers. It is the invention of the Committee.

But with all due respect, those who place a mine under a road, are no "Protesters". Those who lay in ambush nearby and

open fire on the occupants when the mine blows up, are not "Protesters"! They should be called "perpetrators", "murderers" but not "protesters"! It is very sad that the Committee resorted to such techniques.

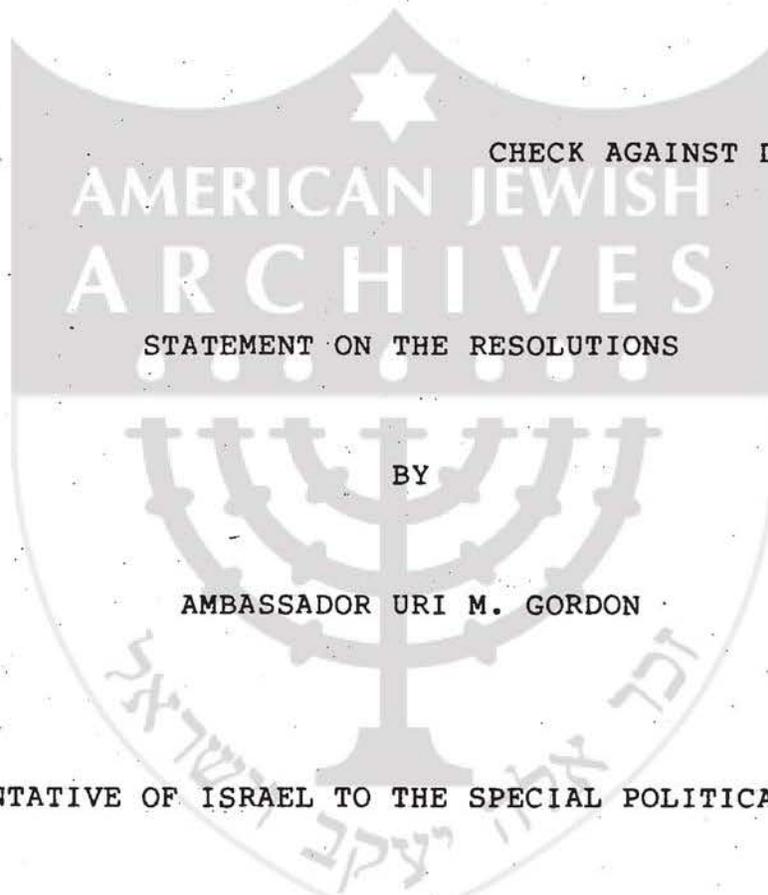
Let me conclude by stressing the futility of the current violence. It leads nowhere. On the other hand, Israel remains ready and willing to negotiate peace and the future status of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District as well as ~~the Gaza~~ of the Palestinians living there.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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STATEMENT ON THE RESOLUTIONS

BY

AMBASSADOR URI M. GORDON

REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 43RD REGUALR SESSION

ITEM NO.77 - THE SITUATION IN JUDEA, SAMARIA AND THE GAZA DISTRICT

28 NOVEMBER 1988

Mr. Chairman,

In my statement before this Committee in the General Debate on the item under discussion, I already illustrated some of the techniques by which the Special Committee acted as another platform for anti-Israeli propaganda. One wonders what does one additional propaganda organ contribute to the Arab countries and their allies? Are they not interested in knowing the truth about what is going on in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District? They pressure U.N. media to echo their propaganda. They pressure and persuade various news sources to echo their propaganda. They pass resolutions throughout the U.N. system declaring theirs to be the only truth and they end up making decision based not on facts but on their own misleading assumptions bounced back defined as facts.

In 1967 Israel was again confronted with an attack at its very existence, conducted on three fronts. This attack was another phase in the ongoing war against Israel's very existence, which had started in 1948. As a result of the war of self-defence which it was obliged to conduct, and in the absence of any political solution, the West Bank and the Gaza District came under, and have since continued to be under Israel's control. At the same time, Israel has stated

time and again that it wishes to negotiate with the Arab States concerned, and with representatives of the Palestinians residing in the area and renouncing violence. The goal of these negotiations would be to reach a peace settlement by which, inter alia, the status of these territories would be determined. This offer has been consistently repudiated by extremist Arab leaders.

Instead they waged a war of relentless terrorism on innocent civilians, men and women, on old people's homes and children in schools and dormitories, in Israel and overseas, on Israelis and nationals of other countries, hijacking air planes and killing passengers, blowing up air planes in mid-air, using unsuspecting girl-friends and acquaintances as human time bombs, spraying bullets on pilgrims to the Holy Land in airports all over the world, hijacking yachts and cruiseships on the high seas and murdering their passengers, killing Israeli athletes in the Olympic Games and foreign diplomats in Khartoum. They systematically murdered Palestinians who dared exercise freedom of speech when it displeased the terrorist warlords.

All this was of no avail. Their goal to liquidate Israel was not - and will never be - attained. Yet, the road to negotiations was again ignored. Instead, they placed their own women and children on the confrontation line to attack Israeli civilians and troops, to complement the work of the

full-time trained terrorists. Whereas the use of terrorism is aimed at arousing fear, the use of women and children, at arousing sympathy.

The responsibility for the present situation in the territories rests with those to whom the continuation of their vendetta against Israel is more important than the fate of their inhabitants.

As part of the campaign to arouse sympathy some Arab countries have adopted a posture - and only a posture - of moderation and pragmatism. However, in the present debate in this Committee, representatives of many Arab countries and their friends seemed to have forgotten for a short while that right now Sympathy is on and Terror is off. They forgot their disguise as sheep and in this debate they brandished their teeth and proved who in fact the "wolf" is.

They spoke of redressing the error of Israel's rebirth, they phantasized on destroying Israel as just another crusader state. They spoke of their schemes to build a Palestinian state on the whole territory of mandatory Palestine. We certainly take due note of these statements.

Several representatives also elaborated with triumphant jubilation on the theme that the whole world sided with them against Israel, that Israel was alone, that Israel was isolated and that we were only a few.

Irrespective of whether the above description was true or false and of the conclusions that one can draw from it, such declarations are not new. It is worthwhile noting an answer that was given on a previous occasion when such a declaration was uttered in pre-Islamic Jahilia times, around the middle of the sixth century A.D.. I will read to you a few verse from a poem named Al-Lamia by the Jewish-Arabic poet al-Samwal Ben Adaya in the original Arabic and then a rough english translation.

تُعِيرُنَا أَنَا قَلِيلٌ عَدِيدُنَا فَقُلْتُ لَهَا إِنَّ الْكِرَامَ قَلِيلُ  
وَمَا قَلَّ مَنْ كَانَتْ بَقَايَاهُ مِثْلَنَا شَبَابُ تَسَامَى لِلْعُلَا وَكُهُولُ  
وَمَا ضَرَرْنَا أَنَا قَلِيلٌ وَجَارُنَا عَزِيزٌ وَجَارُ الْأَكْثَرِينَ ذَلِيلُ  
لَنَا جِلٌّ يَحْتَلُهُ مَنْ نُجِيرُهُ مَنِيعٌ يَرُدُّ الْطَّرْفَ وَهُوَ كَلِيلُ

She reproached us that we were a few in numbers,  
I answered that the noble of heart were indeed few.

A people is not belittled whose remnants are like us,  
mature men and youth pursuing glory and excellence.

And what is wrong if we are few in numbers  
When he whom we grant shelter is respectable  
While he whom the many grant shelter is humiliated.

Ours is a mountain wherein live those whom we grant  
shelter,

A mountain which is impregnable, which repels  
and blunts the gaze of the beholder.

In other words, there is nothing new for us in being few  
and there is nothing wrong or bad about it. It is a pity  
that the Arab Leaders and their allies in this organization  
do not learn the wisdom of the Lamia, but rather use their  
great numbers in the U.N. to pass a multitude of one-sided  
resolutions repeating their old extreme one-sided and  
unrealistic demands instead of trying to negotiate directly  
with Israel and reach peace.

The views of my delegation on the item on which we are about to vote have been outlined in my statement in this Committee on 22 November 1988. It follows that my delegation will vote against each of the resolutions before us.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

