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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 18 July 1983 from the Chairman of the Committee for
the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
addressed to the Secretary-General

As Chairman of the Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have been obliged on a number of occasions to express the Committee's concern at the measures taken by the Israeli Government under its implacable policy of establishing Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank territories.

I now wish to inform you that the occupation authorities have again taken new measures which have aggravated the tensions already existing in the immediate region and which may therefore constitute a threat to international peace.

It was reported in The New York Times of 11 July 1983 that the Israeli Government intends to carry out its decision to restore an old quarter of Hebron and establish Jewish settlers there despite the local Arab resistance. In that connection, I must emphasize that this policy is exceptional in that the planned settlements would be situated in the very centre of the town of Hebron, not on the outskirts, and would be surrounded by long-established Arab quarters.

This policy has exacerbated tensions and has given rise to numerous manifestations of violence and other related acts in the town: the burning of about 90 per cent of the Arab stalls in the town market and the dismissal of Mustafa Natshe, acting mayor of the town, the latter action having been approved by the Israeli cabinet on 10 July 1983.

The Committee considers it its duty to express its most acute concern at this new measure adopted by Israel, a measure which, according to press reports, has been criticized even within the country. In that connection, The New York Times of 12 July 1983 quoted an official statement by the Labour Party, Israel's opposition party, which reads as follows: "Any attempt to create a mixed city in Hebron against the wishes of the Arab population will cause generations of grief".

In conclusion, allow me to state that this information is being transmitted to you in order to keep you aware of the intensification of Israel's activities against the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. Accordingly, I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a General Assembly document under item 33 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Massamba SARRE
Chairman of the Committee on the
Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People

* A/38/150.

