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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-sixth session  
Item 31 of the preliminary list\*  
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 February 1981 from the Acting Chairman of the Committee  
on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People  
to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and on its behalf, I feel bound to convey to you our serious concern over Israel's continued confiscation of Arab land in occupied Palestinian territory.

According to Haaretz of 9 February 1981, about 15,000 dunams (4 dunams equal 1 acre) have just been declared "State land" and designated for settlement (in the region of Nablus) by the military government. Last week, the village mukhtars in the area of Tubas and Kheres were sent notifications to this effect.

Al-Fajr reported on 6 January 1981 that the military Governor of Ramallah notified the chairman of the local council of Silwad on 5 January 1981 that the Israeli authorities had decided to expropriate 200 dunams of land owned by inhabitants from Silwad and 'Ain Yabrud. The said lands would be given to the Jewish settlement of 'Ufrah.

Al-Fajr also reported on 20 January 1981 that the Israeli radio announced on 19 January 1981 that the military authorities at Al-Khalil (Hebron) confiscated Palestinian Arab lands which are known as Wa'r Al-Shayib (Tallat al-Ja'abirah) in order to expand the Jewish town of Kiryat Arba.

It further reported on 26 January 1981 that the settlers of Giv'on had seized 150 dunams owned by inhabitants of the Palestinian Arab villages of Al-Jib and Al-Nabi Samuel.

Finally, Al-Fajr further reported on 31 January 1981 that the military authorities had declared 7,000 dunams of land as "State land". These lands are owned by the inhabitants of the village of Tarqumya, located to the west of Al-Khalil (Hebron).

These actions, which follow other similar decisions taken in the past by the Government of Israel, are further steps towards strengthening its annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories in flagrant violation of international law, world public opinion and General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

The Security Council has adopted resolutions in this matter, particularly resolutions 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979 and 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, which determined that all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967., including Jerusalem, or any part thereof, had no legal validity and that Israel's policy and practices of settling parts of its population and new immigrants in those territories constituted a flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War 1/ and also constituted a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. It also called upon the Government and people of Israel to rescind those measures, to dismantle the existing settlements and in particular to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

The Committee feels that further urgent action needs to be taken by the United Nations, and in particular by the Security Council, to call the attention of Israel to the danger inherent in such policies of annexation and the necessity for its immediate and complete withdrawal from the illegally occupied territories.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 31 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

( Signed ) Raul ROA-KOURI  
Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of  
the Inalienable Rights of  
the Palestinian People

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1/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.