



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/9559
16 December 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL UNDER SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 271 (1969) OF 15 SEPTEMBER 1969

1. This report is submitted in pursuance of Security Council resolution 271 (1969) of 15 September 1969 concerning Jerusalem, which requested the Secretary-General "to follow closely the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Security Council at the earliest possible date". This resolution was communicated to the Government of Israel on the day of its adoption.

2. On 24 November 1969, the Secretary-General, having received no information, addressed the following note to the Permanent Representative of Israel:

"The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 271 (1969) of 15 September 1969 on the subject of Jerusalem.

"Under the terms of this resolution, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General 'to follow closely the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Security Council at the earliest possible date'. In order that he may fulfil the reporting responsibilities placed upon him by the Security Council, the Secretary-General would be grateful if the Israel Government would provide him, at an early date, with the necessary information regarding the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution, since it is his intention to submit a report to the Council not later than mid-December 1969.

"The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representative of Israel the assurances of his highest consideration."

3. On 16 December 1969, the Secretary-General received from the Permanent Representative of Israel the following reply dated 15 December 1969:

"The Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's note of 24 November 1969 concerning Security Council resolution 271 (1969) of 15 September 1969.

"The genesis of the resolution was the blatant attempt of Arab States to exploit the fire in the Al-Aqsa Mosque for political and propaganda purposes and to incite religious passions throughout the Moslem world. The invoking of the Security Council to further these purposes was one of the most inglorious chapters in the history of the United Nations, and impaired the prestige of the organization itself. Moreover, the tension, antagonism and falsehood artificially and deliberately created over the incident damaged still further the prospects of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

"These submissions are more fully elaborated in the statements made by the Permanent Representative during the Security Council debate between 9 and 15 September 1969.

"The report of the Commission of Enquiry appointed by the President of the Israel Supreme Court was published on 23 September 1969. The trial of Denis Michael Rohan, accused of arson in connexion with the fire, is still in progress, and judgement is expected to be delivered soon. In the meantime, temporary repairs have been effected to the Mosque, and prayers are conducted in it as usual.

"As for those paragraphs in the Security Council resolution referring to the question of Jerusalem, reference is made to the letter from the Foreign Minister of Israel conveyed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative on 27 November 1969, and circulated in document S/9537 of 5 December 1969.

"The Permanent Representative of Israel avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration."
