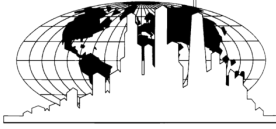


American Model United Nations



**Historical Commission of Inquiry:
Non-Aligned States in Cold War
Context**

**Report to the Historical Commission of Inquiry:
Non-Aligned States in Cold War Context on
Security Council Commission established under
resolution 446 (1979) on the situation in the
Occupied Arab territories**

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1 In adherence to the Security Council's mandate, Resolution 446, a Commission of Inquiry was formed to
2 investigate the situation in the Occupied Arab Territories. In this report, the Commission of Inquiry has detailed
3 the accounts gained from a three-month-long investigation into the Arab Territories, with a concentration on those
4 occupied since 1967. Our accounts have been obtained through interviews, reports, and evidence review. Informants
5 include government officials and refugees' accounts from various areas in the Middle East. The Commission would
6 like to convey their gratitude and appreciation for the hospitality, cooperation, and information provided by the
7 governments of Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. The arrangements made for the Commission were vital to our construction
8 of the report and the Commission greatly appreciated all assistance from cooperating organizations, governments,
9 and individuals.

10 **Israel**

11 The Commission reached out twice to the Permanent Representative to the UN from Israel, Mr. Blum,
12 for questioning, and he initially declined to comment on the matter. We did not receive any response from the
13 Representative the second time. Due to a lack of communication, we were not able to gather any statement from
14 Israel.

15 Syria

16 **President of Syria - Hafez-Al-Assad:**

17 President Hafez-Al-Assad of Syria reported to our Commission on the 20th of May, 1979. President Assad
18 quoted a statement made by the Israeli Chief of Administration of Settlements, that in 1979 Israel intended to
19 establish 20 new settlements, 5 of which would be in the Golan Heights. He further alleged that Israel's intention
20 behind the new settlements was to take over all the necessary land in order to settle 58,000 Israeli families thereon over
21 a period of five years. The Golan Heights, prior to Israeli occupation, previously consisted of 163 towns and villages,
22 where approximately 142,000 Syrians resided. Now, following the growth and expansion of Israeli settlements, the
23 President of Syria reported that all but five of the 163 towns in the Golan Heights have been destroyed. The five
24 remaining Palestinian towns are as follows:

- 25 1. Majdal-Shams,
- 26 2. Akaata,
- 27 3. Massaada,
- 28 4. Al-Ghajar,
- 29 5. Ein-Kena,

30 Syria further alleges that Israel has replaced the 158 Arab cities with 29 new settlements for military and other
31 purposes. Regarding local displacement, Syria reports a growing Palestinian refugee population within their country.
32 Of the 142,000 Syrian residents of the Golan Heights, 134,000 of them have been forced to flee to other parts of
33 Syria. Only 8,000 Syrian inhabitants of the Golan Height region remain in the now occupied territory. President
34 Assad stated that Syria is now a place of refuge to over 250,000 Palestinian refugees, imposing huge burdens on their
35 government to provide humanitarian services for the refugee population. Furthermore, the Syrian leader relayed
36 to our Commission that over 10,000 Syrian families have been forcibly separated from their relatives due to Israeli
37 occupation. In response to Israel's actions, the Syrian Arab Republic testified that Syrians of the Golan Heights are
38 also facing mounting challenges regarding their access to education. President Assad reported that all existing Arabic
39 curricula in the area have been forcibly replaced with Jewish curricula and that Hebrew has been instituted as a
40 mandatory part of local instruction. The Syrian President claimed that Arab individuals who have finished school in
41 the Golan Heights, are not allowed to further their education in Syrian Universities, and instead are forced to pursue
42 education within Israel. Syria argues that this supports their "Zionist ideology" of channeling youth into Israel's
43 workforce. Syria additionally believes that the patterns and establishment of new Israeli settlements seek to eliminate
44 Palestinians' right to freedom of movement. The settlements are not arising where Israeli citizens currently live, but
45 rather along the borders of Arab-owned land so as to weaken Palestinian power by isolating their communities from
46 one another. Syria has claimed that prior to the Israeli occupation in the Golan Heights, the area had been one of
47 the most prosperous regions of Syria. Under the Israeli occupation and their imposed military rule, Syrian residents
48 of the Golan heights are required to complete an application to travel outside of their villages, even within the Golan
49 Heights. In order to receive permission to travel, Syrians have to apply for this certificate months in advance, and
50 the certificate is only valid for a few hours. If Syrians are found outside of their cities of residence, severe fines and
51 jail times are often imposed. President Assad argues that this essentially denies Syrians their freedom of movement,
52 effectively making them prisoners within their own homes.

53 **Syrian Minister of Defense:**

54 On May 25th, 1979, the Syrian Minister of Defense met with the Commission of Inquiry to further report on
55 Syria's actions in response to Israeli settlement activity. The Syrian Minister of Defense stated that he had received
56 a message from the Permanent Representative of Syria to the UN which expressed that Syria's opinion on whether or
57 not Israel complied with their end of the Camp David Accords is largely irrelevant, as Syria does not agree with the
58 premise of the accords. The Syrian Minister of Defense claimed they had to take a strong defensive position along
59 their southern border with Israel, in order to prepare for possible acts of aggression by Israel. They further wanted
60 to ensure that the Israeli government did not continue to encroach on Lebanon, due to their history of doing so. The
61 Minister said that Syria has had to continue to strengthen its military because of Israeli aggression when they would
62 prefer to be spending it on the arts and Syrian literature. As proof of the forced development of their military, the
63 Minister of Defense provided our Commission with data of Syrian military expenditure over time. Since 1960, Syria's
64 military spending as a percent of its GDP has increased steadily, particularly in 1972 the percentage was 8.4% and

65 in 1979 it was 15.9%. Syria fundamentally believes that Israel's policies within the Middle East increase tension and
66 destabilize the region; consequently, Syria must offset Israel's aggression with the development of its own military.

67 **Syrian Refugees:**

68 To aid the Commission's investigation into Arab Occupied Territories, the Commission sent subordinates
69 to investigate settlements in the Golan Heights area. Information was received on June 5, 1979. In the reports
70 received, former inhabitants of the Golan Heights stated that Israeli forces forced them to leave through threats,
71 physical reallocation, and deportation. Another statement claimed to have seen Israeli forces destroying an Arab
72 community including the destruction of 2,875 homes. There have been reports that Arab individuals have been
73 denied access to education and religious institutions. The actions taken by Israel have been seen as a violation of the
74 1949 Geneva Convention referencing articles 2, 4, 27, 47, and 49. While the conditions of the Israeli settlement camps
75 are sustainable, many refugees would prefer to return to their original homes but fear mistreatment by the Israeli
76 government. The witnesses reached consensus in reporting that the Israeli government had goals to make Palestine
77 a Jewish state by unlawfully acquiring land, removing Palestinian citizens, and isolating the remaining Palestinian
78 communities.

79 **Jordan**

80 **The King of Jordan - Hussein Bin Halal**

81 During his statement to the commission, the King of Jordan expressed deep concern for the actions of Israel
82 in regards to the occupation of Jerusalem. He was firm in his assertion that peace would be unachievable without
83 the “restoration of Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.” In his opinion, the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied
84 territories was also vital for peace to be made. The King stressed the safeguarding of rights among the Palestinian
85 people, particularly the right to self-determination. He spoke on the lack of religious freedom for Arab inhabitants
86 and the need for “mutual respect” to be reached on the topic. Along with that, the King seemed concerned by the
87 “compartmenting” of the Arab people in these settlements, stating that borders have been modified and a 20-year
88 levy has been raised on the Arab people for the interest of the Jewish people. The King called upon the UN to focus
89 on the writing and implementation of resolutions to solve this issue.

90 **Prime Minister of Jordan - Mudar Baharen**

91 The Prime Minister of Jordan, during his meeting with the commission, said the State of Jordan was
92 determined to help in any way possible in regards to the Israeli settlements within the West Bank, and other
93 occupied territories. He expressed great concern for the treatment of Palestinians citing concerns when it comes to
94 the seizure of land from Palestinian owners, to the treatment of Palestinians within the occupied territory, to water
95 rights, both for the Palestinian people, but also for the greater Middle East. He also expressed grave concern over
96 the rights of Palestinians to practice their religion, with Israel “barring Palestinians from entering mosques.” One
97 particular issue pushed by the Prime Minister was the fact that on the 5th of June 1967, during the Six-Day war, any
98 land that was Palestinian owned, was seized by the government. It was stated that the State took land that belonged
99 to Palestinians who were not actively on the property while not allowing Palestinians to travel back to their land to
100 claim it. This was called “absentee owner policy.” He said he was frustrated by methods Israel has used to take the
101 land. He claims the State of Israel is trying to prevent the use of this seized land by its Palestinian owners and is now
102 being sold to create private Jewish settlements. Israel considers all the land that was not inhabited by its owners
103 since the 6th of June in 1967 to be theirs. As it stands right now, there are 78 Israeli settlements in the West Bank.
104 The Prime Minister also believes that Israel is restricting water rights in the West Bank. This Commission sent
105 staff to the Schneller Refugee Camp in Jordan to gather more information regarding what is happening, specifically
106 from first-hand accounts, of how the Israeli government is going about resettlement. One witness indicated that
107 as of today, Israel has drilled around 20 deep boreholes in the Jordan Valley, ranging from 300 -600 meters deep.
108 These are pumping an estimated 15-17 million cubic meters of water, to be exclusively used for irrigation for the
109 Israeli settlements. Most of these new wells have been drilled close to older Arab springs, which is not allowed under
110 Jordanian law. The West Bank depends heavily on groundwater but Israel considers the Jordan valley one geological
111 basin allowing Israel unrestricted access to water usage. This prevents Arab farmers from drilling artesian wells
112 without a special permit, and if they are able to then there are meters that restrict the amount of water they can
113 have. This is commonplace for non-Israeli settlements but is not the case for Israeli settlements which are equipped
114 with artesian wells with motor engines and pipelines. The impact has been felt far and wide with the saline content of
115 water pumped from pre-1967 Arab wells noticeably rising. The flow of water has also dramatically decreased within
116 the Wadi Fara water basin, the Ilardala basin, and the region of Al-Anja, which used to provide 11 million cubic
117 meters per year. Now, it produces only a “trickle” of water, eliminating any chance for cultivation for Palestinians
118 living in Occupied Arab Territories. This is an issue faced in all Occupied Territories, not only the West Bank region.
119 Another alarming development the Prime Minister mentioned was Israel restricting Palestinian access to mosques,
120 denying them their ability to freely practice their faith. Lastly, the Prime Minister wishes us success in our significant
121 and delicate mission and wants our effort to bring about a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace.

122 **Jordan Refugee Report**

123 In our continuation of the investigation of the Arab occupied territories, the Commission sent subordinates
124 to investigate the issues in Jordan. From witness testimonies, the Commission has learned of the alleged Israeli
125 strategy to force out Arab peoples out of the area. The strategy is as follows: Israeli forces clearly divide the areas
126 with boundary markers. Arab villages are informed that they are no longer allowed access to the land for security
127 reasons. Israeli forces then destroy agricultural assets. Other reports from the refugees state they were extracted
128 from their communities and their villages were destroyed, often in front of them. Issues that concern the area now
129 include access to water and irrigation systems. As a result of these actions, strict limitations have been placed on
130 the usage of water which seriously prohibits their ability to farm. Our reporters stated that Israel obtained the land
131 through existing mandates and laws which are outdated and currently being used out of the original context. In

132 contrast, Israeli settlements, which roughly hold 150 houses, are provided with wells featuring a motor engine and a
133 set of pipelines. The refugees stated that despite being displaced several times over a long period of time, they still
134 desire to return to their homeland. Israel is still continuing with its settlement policy and process of judaization.
135 Palestinians have reported they will not accept Jerusalem as an exclusively Jewish city or any system that allows
136 Israel control while denying Palestine any access or placing Palestinians in a subordinate role. The Commission has
137 received a report that Jordan is spending \$36 million a year to support refugees with housing, salaries, and water
138 access.

140 **President of Egypt - Anwar Sadat**

141 The Commission of Inquiry met with the President of Egypt, Anwar Sadat, on the 20th of June, 1979 in
142 Cairo, Egypt. Our Commission is very grateful to Egypt and its government for its cooperation and participation
143 in the successful conclusion of our mandate. President Sadat emphasized that Egypt's desired conclusion regarding
144 the situation in Occupied Arab Territories is not the conclusion of their bilateral peace agreement with Israel, but
145 rather a comprehensive peace for the entire region. The bilateral peace agreement is in reference to the Camp David
146 Accords, signed by President Jimmy Carter, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem
147 Begin in September 1978, which established a framework for a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in March 1979.
148 President Sadat outlined three main points regarding Egypt's perspective on the situation:

- 149 1. Egypt condemns Israel's settlement policy and strongly urges Israel to comply with all Security Council Res-
150 olutions, namely Resolution 242 and Resolution 338, which call for the complete withdrawal of Israel from all
151 occupied territory.
- 152 2. Egypt fundamentally believes that Arab Jerusalem should be accessible to all faiths.
- 153 3. Egypt underscores Palestinian sovereignty and their right to self-determination. Egypt believes that Palestini-
154 ans possess the right to determine their own futures and to control the construction of their state.

155 In regards to control of and access to water in the occupied territory, President Sadat relayed to us that Egypt had
156 offered to pipe fresh water from the Nile River across the Sinai Peninsula to the Negev Desert, after the tunnel
157 under the Suez Canal will be completed the following year. In 1967, the Israeli military consolidated power of all
158 water resources and infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Israeli authorities passed a military order
159 stating "Palestinians could not construct any new water installation without first obtaining a permit from the Israeli
160 army." Under this order:

- 161 • Palestinians were unable to drill new water wells, install pumps or deepen existing wells, and were denied access
162 to the Jordan River and freshwater springs.
- 163 • Israel controlled the collection of rainwater of the West Bank, and rainwater harvesting cisterns owned by
164 Palestinian communities were often destroyed by the Israeli army.
- 165 • Israel gained exclusive control of the waters of the West Bank and the Sea of Galilee.

166 However, unlike with other Arab nations that we have met with during our investigation, Egypt had participated in
167 some negotiations with Israel regarding water. According to Article IV, Section III of the 1979 Israel-Egypt Peace
168 Treaty, "When Israel relinquishes Israeli military water points near El Arish and El Tor, Egyptian technical teams
169 will assume control of those installations and ancillary equipment in accordance with an orderly transfer process
170 arranged beforehand by the Joint Commission. Egypt undertakes to continue to make available at all water supply
171 points the normal quantity of currently available water up to the time Israel withdraws behind the international
172 boundary unless otherwise agreed in the Joint Commission." Egypt further believes that all actions Israel has taken
173 to expand settlements within Occupied Arab Territories are in violation of international law, and United Nations
174 mandates. President Sadat stated that Israeli exploitation of resources and destruction of local dwellings is also in
175 violation of international law. Palestinians who have been forced to flee to Egypt due to Israeli aggression in the
176 nearest territory are providing a significant financial and resource burden on the country, as they are now having
177 to provide humanitarian aid to a significant amount of refugees. In addition to those who had to remain in Egypt
178 in 1967 and the years which followed, Egypt hosted several thousand military and civilian Palestinians who arrived
179 as a result of the war. Several temporary camps were recreated until all their inhabitants were able to settle in one
180 of the Egyptian cities. Although the influx of 1967 was the last major wave of Palestinians into Egypt, the size of
181 the community has continued to increase. The President of Egypt ended our interview by calling for the swift and
182 complete demilitarization of these territories, specifically Sinai. The Egyptian military has been acting in agreement
183 with the Camp David Accords. In Article II, Section II of the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty, it states: "Israel will
184 withdraw all its armed forces and civilians from the Sinai behind the international boundary between Egypt and
185 mandated Palestine, as provided in the annexed protocol (Annex I), and Egypt will resume the exercise of its full
186 sovereignty over the Sinai." Egypt strongly and profusely condemns these actions as they do not fit the peaceful
187 narrative Egypt is hoping to achieve in the region. In their push for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East,
188 Egypt hopes the UN will work to demilitarize the area and prevent further violence. By enforcing these actions

189 Palestinians will be able to determine their own futures and actualize their right to self-determination. Egypt wants
190 to support Arab peoples who are looking for a peaceful transition back to their homes.

191 **Egypt Refugee Report**

192 On June 25, 1979, the Commission received a report from subordinates revealing their findings in the
193 investigation of settlements in Egypt. In the reports, witnesses expanded upon claims that Israeli forces evicted
194 Arab individuals from their land, including the forced eviction and displacement of 12,000 men. Different forms of
195 expulsion and disbarment included undercover Israeli's unlawful arresting Arab individuals and refusal to readmit
196 those who traveled outside of the Gaza Strip or who were expelled. As a result of these actions, a witness reported
197 that five Israeli settlements have been established on around 12,000 dunams of land. Once establishing precedence
198 in the area, Israelis are noted to have terrorized local Arab inhabitants. According to witnesses, Israelis in these
199 settlements are heavily armed, which leads to friction between the two groups. This violence has led to overwhelming
200 issues, specifically with the UN. Our subordinates noted that Israelis are said to have confiscated further land near
201 the Eretz settlement and have overtaken several United Nations buildings used for refugee relief. Those within these
202 buildings were given 24 hours to evacuate before further violence proceeded. Again, Arab inhabitants of the area are
203 seeing regulations on their water supply. Israelis control water supplies by fixing meters on local wells. If the limit of
204 water used exceeds a certain level, water usage is completely cut off, forcing Arab inhabitants to abandon the area
205 in search of water.

206 Conclusion on Investigation

207 Conclusion on Investigation

208 Based on information gathered, the Commission has concluded that the Israeli Occupation of the Arab
209 Territories has had a detrimental effect on many aspects of Palestinian life. This occupation not only affects those
210 inhabiting these territories, but it has also harmed the surrounding countries of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The
211 specific denial of rights such as access to potable water, water for agriculture, access to education, ability to own
212 land, freedom to practice religion, freedom of movement, and freedom to choose their own lives. With this information
213 in mind, this Commission has concluded that Israel has violated the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949, specifically
214 Articles 2, 4, 27, 47, and 49. The Commission recommends the UN Security Council send UN Investigators to
215 survey the city of Jerusalem, to establish a survey which measures the effects that Israeli occupation affects different
216 factors of Palestinian life. Furthermore, the Commission notes Israel's abuse and manipulation of outdated mandates,
217 procedures, and laws, including but not limited to:

- 218 • The Absentee Property Law, adopted by the Knesset on 14 March 1950, which replaced the emergency decrees
219 concerning absentee property issued on 19 December 1948;
- 220 • The law of acquisition of land for the public interest, issued in 1943 under the British mandate and still in use;
- 221 • Defense and emergency decrees of 1945, also issued under the British mandate. Under these decrees, the
222 Military Governor can order the deportation of people and expropriation of property;
- 223 • Emergency regulations on the exploitation of barren lands, published on 15 October 1948, under which the
224 Minister of Agriculture is empowered to seize barren lands if he is "convinced" that its owner does not intend
225 to utilize it for agricultural purposes;
- 226 • A law relating to the expropriation of real estate during the 1949 emergency period, under which an ad hoc
227 authority may seize any real estate which it believes to be necessary for national security.

228 These reports were received by the Commission from subordinates sent to settlements in Jordan. The Commission
229 urges the Security Council to intervene and pressure Israel to abolish the mandates, procedures, and laws that
230 no longer hold relevance, end the forced removal of Palestinians from their land, and stop the creation of Israeli
231 settlements on these lands. Israel also must end restrictions placed on travel by Arab individuals in Occupied
232 Territories. The Commission suggests that the Security Council demand that Israel allow safe passage for individuals
233 between states and territories. Understanding a large part of the refugee issue is Israel's refusal to remove or revise
234 its settlement policy, the Commission recommends the Security Council to propose an alternative settlement policy.