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DELEGATIONS OF EGYPT, IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, LIBYA, MOROCCO,
SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, SYRIA, TUNISIA AND YEMEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

14 December 1956

The following is the text of a letter addressed today to the President of the General Assembly from the Representatives of the above 11 Arab States:

Your Royal Highness:

We have the honour, on behalf of our respective delegations, to bring to your attention the fact that we have been receiving substantial information from reliable sources on the extent of the inhuman treatment of the Arabs living in Israel, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula at the hands of the Israeli authorities to which we have repeatedly referred in our statements and interventions during the First Emergency Special Session and the current session of the General Assembly.

A large number of Arabs have already fallen victim to the policy of Israel; the established policy of uprooting and dispersing the Arab population of Palestine. This policy has been intensified during the Israeli aggression on Egypt.

Hundreds of men, women and children have been ruthlessly murdered in cold blood. Thousands have been terrorized into fleeing Israeli-controlled territory to the neighboring Arab countries.

Although the whole story will never be told and the extent of the tragedy never be known, yet official Israeli information has revealed the shocking aspect of this criminal policy.

The Israeli Government was no longer able to hide from world public opinion its savage actions of the massacre of innocent Arab men, women and children. The Israeli Prime Minister was compelled officially to admit in Parliament the act of genocide committed by Israeli policemen at Kafr Qasem on 29 October 1956 resulting in the murder of 48 Arabs, men, women and children. According to the Prime Minister these peaceful villagers were murdered as they were returning from their fields to their homes.

In view of the systematic Israeli policy of murdering and terrorizing the Arabs of Palestine we deem it our duty to request you to bring this matter to the attention of the members of the General Assembly. We shall be grateful if this letter be circulated as an official document.

Please accept, Your Royal Highness, the assurances of our highest consideration.

The Chairmen of the Delegations of:

(Signed)	Omar Loutgi (Egypt)	Abdullah Al-Khayyal (Saudi Arabia)
	Mohammed Fadhel Famali (Iraq)	Mohammed Ahmed Mahgoub (Sudan)
	Abdel Monem Rifai (Jordan)	Farid Zeineddine (Syria)
	Victor Khouri (Lebanon)	Monji Slim (Tunisia)
	Moheddine Fekini (Libya)	Sayful Islam Al-Hassan (Yemen)
	Mhamed El Kohen (Morocco)	

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Friday, 14 December, 10:25 a.m.

JAMALI PRESS CONFERENCE

He said that representatives of 11 Arab states, members of the United Nations, had called on the Secretary-General at 10:30 a.m. to call attention to the following:

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1) "The crime of genocide committed by Israel against innocent Arab inhabitants of Israel, "who had not committed any offense whatsoever. Men, women and children had been killed. Israel acknowledged the number as being 38, but it was believed to be much greater. The Secretary-General had been asked to make a complete investigation and report before any further steps were taken by the group. He would not amplify what further steps might be taken.

2) "Israel's pressure to make Arab refugees flee from the Gaza Strip into Sinai and Jordan." News had come that thousands of refugees from the Gaza Strip had reached Jordan. Jordan had confirmed it. Some had had to walk all the way. Israel had not only permitted it, but pressed it. The Secretary-General had been asked for a full report on "what is going on."

3) "The devastation being brought about by Israeli forces before their withdrawal from Sinai." Roads, railroads, communications lines, bridges, villages, water tanks and wells were being completely demolished. Israel was "applying Hitler's scorched earth methods" before withdrawal. This was "a clear violation of the cease-fire resolution of the General Assembly because it means a continuation of aggression." The Secretary-General had been asked to make an investigation and report.

4) In addition, the Secretary-General had been asked to investigate "the causes of Israeli procrastination and reluctance" to withdraw quickly from Egyptian territory and the Gaza Strip. (Later, he changed this wording to "behind the armistice lines.")

Asked if U.N. observers should be sent, he said that was up to the Secretary-General.

Asked by Frank Carpenter, of the AP, during the question period, whether some of these delegations had been among those not voting to send U.N. observers to Hungary, he replied that that was a different matter entirely.

Statement in comment on the statements of an Arab spokesman this morning:

"The Government of Israel has publicly expressed its profound distress at the incident at Kfar Kassem on 29 October. The Israeli Knesset gave expression yesterday to its sense of shock by standing in silence in memory of the victims. The officer and men of the unit responsible will be brought to ~~trial~~ trial. This was a terrible tragedy which is a cause for deep sorrow in Israel.

"At the same time as Mr. Ben-Gurion made his statement in the Knesset, the Iraqi Foreign Minister confirmed that the policy of his Government was the elimination of Israel. This is a threat of genocide.

"The Arab spokesman spoke of alleged persecution of Arabs in the Gaza Strip. Independent observers who have investigated the situation there have confirmed that this allegation has no basis whatsoever. On the contrary, efforts made by ~~in~~ the Israeli authorities to restore civilian life activities in the Strip have proceeded steadily and successfully with the full cooperation of the local population.

"The Israel withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula is proceeding according to plan and in full coordination with the United Nations."

In reply to questions, he said he had not heard of any approach by the Secretary-General to his delegation ~~in~~ in connection with the Arab request for an investigation and report on the incident.

Regarding destruction in the Sinai peninsula, he said a letter had been sent to the Secretary-General. Egypt had mined the area heavily.