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Security Council**

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Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Security Council
Seventy-fourth year

**Identical letters dated 18 November 2019 from the Permanent
Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly
and the President of the Security Council**

I am attaching herewith summaries of two statements, one by Nabil Abu Rudeinah, spokesperson of President Mahmoud Abbas (see annex I), and one by Riad al-Malki, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine (see annex II), in connection with the illegal statement made by the United States Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, on behalf of the United States Administration, on 18 November 2019, regarding the illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annexes distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations



Annex I to the identical letters dated 18 November 2019 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Press statement issued by Nabil Abu Rudaynah, official spokesperson of the President of the State of Palestine

Nabil Abu Rudaynah, the official spokesperson of the Palestinian President, said that the announcement made by the United States Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, in which he declared that Israeli settlements in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank do not violate international law, is without effect, unacceptable and reprehensible.

He stressed that such a claim was completely contrary to international law and international resolutions rejecting the settlements, as well as Security Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#).

He added that the President of Palestine rejects this announcement and previous decisions taken regarding Jerusalem, and calls upon the States of the world to reject it and condemn it, because it is illegal and threatens international peace and security.

In that connection, the official spokesperson reiterated that the American Administration had lost all credibility and no longer had a role to play in the peace process, adding that the Trump Administration bore full responsibility for the repercussions of its dangerous position.

Annex II to the identical letters dated 18 November 2019 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Press statement issued by Riad al-Malki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of the State of Palestine, Riad al-Malki, condemned the American announcement on settlements, calling it as a mistake and an act of political baseness. Stressing that the announcement has no legal effect, he said that it was a pathetic attempt to protect Netanyahu that contravened international resolutions, one of which is the resolution on the illegality of the settlements that the General Assembly adopted two days ago, and the resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 2334 (2016). Al-Malki said that the announcement represented a change to the position that previous American Administrations had taken and put the current Administration at odds with the international consensus and international law and instruments. It was also an attempt to cover up the war crimes, the grave violations of international criminal law and international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions and other crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, thus making the American Administration an accomplice to those crimes.

The Minister added that the announcement is an incitement to violence against the Palestinian people and a call to violate the rights of the Palestinian people, international law and human rights, because settlement-building and annexation are crimes that are punishable under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

The Minister stressed that the Palestinian diplomatic corps will use all available means under international law to hold accountable any party, including the American Administration, that commits violations, incites and covers up Israeli crimes. Al-Malki also stressed that the Palestinian leadership has been in touch with international legal institutions and the Security Council and has called upon the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Arab States and of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to discuss this most recent American violation and work with the international community to condemn the announcement. He added that forthcoming international resolutions would reflect the true response of the international community to this announcement.

Al-Malki called upon the international community to condemn this announcement and take measures in response to American efforts to set the region on fire, undermine the right of the Palestinian people to exercise the right of self-determination in its territory and bury the two-State solution, which is supported by the international consensus.