

PRESS RELEASE

Delegation of Israel to Habitat, June 7th. 1976

The Minister of the Interior, Head of the Israeli delegation to Habitat, in exercising his right of reply in the Plenary general debate today said the following:

Mr. President, I asked for the floor within my right of reply in order to raise the voice of Israel against the endeavours of certain delegates to keep this conference away from its real topics - the Habitat problems of man and mankind. This conference should not be a repetition of the U.N. parquet in New York, a duplicate of its political atmosphere, counter-productive to the creation of a real atmosphere of Peace. I raise my voice as the representative of a small nation, but a nation of great historical experience, not to give its support to resolutions that could bring dissolution to this illustrious body. We cannot remain silent during this constant exercise in hypocrisy - talking about Israel and remaining over-silent with regard to the fate of Lebanon's suffering, occupation and genocide. What is done to Lebanon by her sisters nations is not the line of "love and coexistence and human settlement" suggested to Israel by those who did nothing during 20 years to alleviate the fate of their own brethren-refugees, continuing with the Palestinian National Covenant and declaring the establishment of Israel as null and void.

The crescendo - anti-Israel propaganda- is not the way towards the desired solution. Mr. President, we are fully aware of the problem of the Palestinian Arabs. But ~~it~~ it is clear to every logical man that a proper solution can only be achieved in the context of peace negotiations and a genuine peace settlement. Thank you.