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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 6 October 1973 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Egypt to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to bring to your urgent attention the following statement:

1. At 6.30 hours a.m. (New York Time) today, Saturday, 6 October 1973, Israeli air formations attacked Egyptian forces stationed in the areas of El Zaafarana and El Sukhna on the Gulf of Suez, while Israeli naval units were approaching the Western Coast of the Gulf of Suez from the Egyptian territory of Sinai occupied by Israel as a result of the war it launched on 5 June 1967.
2. Egyptian forces are at present engaged in military operations against the Israeli forces of aggression in the occupied territories.
3. Israel has prepared for this latest act of aggression by its military aggression against Syria on 13 September 1973. This has been followed by Israeli military movements all along Syrian and Lebanese lines.
4. The aggression launched today along the Egyptian and Syrian fronts is a continuation of Israel's policy of annexation and consolidation of its occupation of Arab territories beginning with Jerusalem and its insistence on the humiliation of the Arab people and the breaking of their will.
5. Since its aggression of June 1967, and particularly since the cease-fire of August 1970, Israel has been practising a policy of systematic defiance to the United Nations Charter, the United Nations resolutions and world public opinion. This policy has been coupled by another policy seeking to perpetuate its occupation of the Arab territories and to abort and frustrate all peace efforts and initiatives aimed at carrying out Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and the provisions of the aide-mémoire of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of 8 February 1971. 1/

1/ S/10929, annex II.

6. All peace forces throughout the world have condemned these Israeli policies of aggression and territorial expansion. This has been expressed clearly by the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity and by the Conferences of the non-aligned countries. Israel's policy has been equally rejected by the resolutions of the General Assembly and the voting of the Security Council in July 1973.

7. Egypt, exercising its legitimate right of self-defence, calls upon all peace-loving peoples and countries to put all their weight to help put an end to the Israeli continued acts of aggression.

As it is apparently not possible to convene a meeting of the General Assembly today, I request Your Excellency to urgently cause this statement to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Mohamed Hassan EL-ZAYYAT
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Egypt
