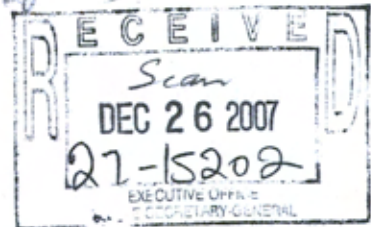


ACTION
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Mr. Poree
Mr. Gusham
VN/KWS/NTT



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
304 East 44th Street
New York, NY 10017

Tel (212) 503-0300 Fax (212) 949-5999

December 26, 2007

CHAN/920/07

Excellency,

I have the honour to attach herewith a verbal message addressed to your Excellency from H.E Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, regarding the Israeli settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel's intention to construct new housing units in the illegal settlements surrounding the Occupied East Jerusalem.

Please accept Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Maged Abdel Aziz
Ambassador & Permanent Representative

H.E Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York



Verbal message

- I am sure you have followed the recent news concerning Israeli intention and preparations to build a number of new housing units in the illegal settlements surrounding East Jerusalem.
- It is indeed disturbing as well as upsetting to see that Israel, several weeks after Anapolis and Paris, is carelessly ignoring all international appeals to bring its illegal settlement policy to a complete and immediate halt.
- You would recall that, in both conferences, I was explicit in expressing Egypt's concerns about Israel's settlements policy and its will to freeze it as required by phase one of the Road Map. Our feelings were shared by the Palestinian side as well as all representatives on the Arab side. It is disheartening to see that our worst expectations are coming true and that Israel, as the Occupying Power, still insists on ignoring international law and its own commitments and that it continues to build illegally on the occupied Palestinian Territory.
- I think you share with me the view that Israeli settlements are, in addition to being a flagrant violation to international law, a serious impediment to peace and to the realization of the two-state solution for the Palestinian Israeli conflict. By continuing to build on Palestinian territories, Israel is effectively undermining any prospects of just peace in the region. This policy prejudices and pre-empts all results of the much awaited negotiations.
- I am looking forward for a strong position from you, including through intervention with the Israeli side, in order to enable the process to move forward and give peace the chance we all hope for.
