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ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 21 April 1988 at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. ZUZE

(Zambia)

Members: Algeria
Argentina
Brazil
China
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
Italy
Japan
Nepal
Senegal
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America
Yugoslavia

Mr. DJOUDI
Mr. DELPECH
Mr. NOGUERIRA BATISTA
Mr. DING Yuanhong
Mr. BLANC
Mr. VERGAU
Mr. BUCCI
Mr. KAGAMI
Mr. RANA
Mr. SARRE
Mr. BELONOGOV

Sir CRISPIN TICKELL
Mr. OKUN
Mr. PEJIC

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The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/19798)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members of the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Egypt, Gabon, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Mozambique, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mestiri (Tunisia) took a place at the Council table; Mr. Badawi (Egypt), Mr. Biffot (Gabon), Mr. Salah (Jordan), Mr. Abulhasan (Kuwait), Mr. Fakhoury (Lebanon), Mr. Bennouna (Morocco), Mr. Dos Santos (Mozambique), Mr. Shah Nawaz (Pakistan), Mr. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia), Mr. Osman (Somalia) and Mr. Al-Masri (Syrian Arab Republic) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter dated 21 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, which reads as follows:

"I have the honour to request that the Security Council extend an invitation to Dr. Nasser Al-Kidwa, Alternate Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations, in accordance with

(The President)

the Council's past practice, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item 'Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council'."

That letter will be circulated as document S/19814.

The proposal by Algeria is not made pursuant to rule 37 or rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, but if approved by the Council the invitation to participate in the debate would confer on the Palestine Liberation Organization the same rights of participation as those conferred on Member States when invited to participate pursuant to rule 37.

Does any member of the Council wish to speak on this proposal?

Mr. OKUN (United States of America): The United States has consistently taken the position that under the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council the only legal basis on which the Council may grant a hearing to persons speaking on behalf of non-governmental entities is rule 39.

For four decades the United States has supported a generous interpretation of rule 39 and would certainly not object had this matter been raised under that rule. We are, however, opposed to special ad hoc departures from orderly procedure. The United States consequently opposes extending to the Palestine Liberation Organization the same rights to participate in the proceedings of the Security Council as if that organization represented a Member State of the United Nations. We certainly believe in listening to all points of view, but not if that requires violating the rules. In particular, the United States does not agree with the recent practice of the Security Council which appears selectively to try to enhance the prestige of those who wish to speak in the Council through a departure from our rules of procedure. We consider this special practice to be without legal foundation and to constitute an abuse of the rules.

(Mr. Okun, United States)

For these reasons the United States requests that the terms of the proposed invitation be put to the vote. Of course, the United States will vote against the proposal.

The PRESIDENT: If no other member of the Council wishes to speak, I shall take it that the Council is ready to vote on the proposal by Algeria.

It is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, China, Japan, Nepal, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, Zambia

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows: 10 votes in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions. The proposal has therefore been adopted.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al-Kidwa (Palestine Liberation Organization) took a place at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members of the Council that I have received a letter dated 21 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, which reads as follows:

"I have the honour to request that the Security Council extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, during the Council's consideration of the item entitled 'Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19798)'."

(The President)

That letter will be published as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/19815.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees to extend an invitation to His Excellency Mr. Maksoud under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting today in response to the request contained in the letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19798).

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/19813, which contains the text of a letter dated 20 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

The first speaker on my list is the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri. I welcome His Excellency and invite him to make his statement.

Mr. MESTIRI (Tunisia) (interpretation from Arabic): Thank you, Sir, for your words of welcome. In turn, I should like to congratulate you most warmly on your assumption of the presidency of the Council. We hold Zambia - a worthy African country with which Tunisia shares unshakeable faith in the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in the charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) - in great esteem. I am certain that under your wise leadership the Security Council will be able in an exemplary manner to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter, primarily that of the maintenance of international peace and security.

My country's sovereignty and territorial integrity have been violated by terrorist aggression perpetrated on 16 April 1988 at 1.30 a.m. when a group of Israelis equipped with 9-millimetre Uzi sub-machine guns broke into the residence of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir "Abu Jihad" - a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) - situated in the northern suburbs of the Tunisian capital and shot him to death, after having killed a Tunisian citizen who worked as a gardener and two Palestinian guards. The assassination of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir was perpetrated in the most heinous manner, in the presence of his wife and children.

At 1.44 a.m. the terrorists fled in two Volkswagen minibuses and a Peugeot 305 automobile, which were found some hours later on the beach at Raoued, 15 kilometres from the scene of the crime. It was later learned that these vehicles had been rented from three car rental agencies.

The Tunisian Government established a committee of inquiry in order to investigate the circumstances surrounding this operation. Its preliminary findings have established that at the very time when the assassination was taking place a Boeing-707 aircraft bearing Israeli insignia and the registration number 4X977 was

(Mr. Mestiri, Tunisia)

flying not far from the Tunisian coast. It was later learned that the aircraft, which had all the appearances of a civil airliner, was actually a military aircraft that was providing logistic support to a group of terrorists; it was equipped with ultra-sophisticated electronic equipment which was able to jam the telecommunications network in the area of the attack.

The ecstatic, indeed gloating, statements spontaneously made by various Israeli authorities immediately after the assassination - statements reported in the international media, which up until then had been neutral or more or less in favour of Israel - are indications of the Israeli Government's direct involvement in the execution of that odious terrorist plan.

It is truly regrettable and indeed ominous that the attack took place at a time when so many efforts were being made to resolve the problem of the Middle East, as if someone wished to scuttle them. As we all know, however, terrorist operations of this kind cannot halt the march of peoples towards liberation and emancipation. The heroic Palestinian uprising will lead inevitably to the restoration of that people's lawful rights.

Israeli involvement in this operation, which under international law is a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent State Member of the United Nations, clearly shows the terrorist nature of Israeli practices and Israel's defiance of the norms of international law as enshrined in the Charter.

The following evidence convincingly establishes the premeditated nature of this attack:

- First, the advance infiltration of three individuals into Tunisian territory in order to provide logistic support to the terrorist group;

(Mr. Mestiri, Tunisia)

- Secondly, the rental of vehicles to transport the terrorists, who carried false identity papers;
- Thirdly, the footprints that were left around the vehicles;
- Fourthly, the highly suspect presence, at the time of the operation, of an aircraft flying not far from the Tunisian coast, near the scene of the crime.

(Mr. Mestiri, Tunisia)

Fifthly, telecommunications were jammed precisely from the beginning to the end of the operation in order to conceal it.

Sixthly, the vehicles left on the beach and the footprints heading towards the sea show that the commandos entered and left Tunisian territory by sea.

It was reported in the 19 April edition of Le Monde that
(spoke in French)

"The operation, which took the life of Fatah's second in command, was carried out by an Israeli unit of approximately 30 men who arrived by sea, according to a source close to French intelligence. The Israeli commando unit also departed by sea after having killed Abu Jihad in the Sidi Bou Said suburb".

(continued in Arabic)

It should be noted that Le Monde states those facts unambiguously and without reservation.

Statements by Israeli leaders also establish the Israeli Government's responsibility for this operation. Commenting on 18 April about the assassination of Abu Jihad, Ariel Sharon said that he had been insisting for years on the need to liquidate what he called the "leaders of terrorist organizations".

An Israeli military leader, Mr. Rafael Eitan, said on Israeli armed forces radio that Abu Jihad was one of the four main targets of the Israeli intelligence services and that he had to be cut down.

The international media and experts on terrorism - including Israeli experts - are unanimous in noting that the operation to assassinate Khalil al-Wazir was identical to an earlier operation carried out by Israel against another Palestinian leader. But the Israeli authorities have somewhat sheepishly attempted to deny this; only those who are biased in favour of Israel can believe them. Israel understands the serious view the international community takes of this attack.

(Mr. Mestiri, Tunisia)

This presumptuous act follows previous acts, and Tunisia, an open, hospitable and peaceful country, has once again been the target of the State terrorism consistently practised by Israel with cynicism and arrogance.

We have heard news from a variety of sources, including international press agencies, well known for their seriousness and impartiality, and very close to Israeli agencies. That news establishes in the clearest way that this operation was prepared and carried out by Israel. Israel was in fact its architect: Its style is easily recognized.

We would further cite reports from Agence France Presse, from such periodicals as Le Monde and Time magazine and from the British Broadcasting Corporation. Those are credible sources, well respected internationally: They all say that Israeli sources close to military circles supplied them with their information.

I also call attention to the fact that Mr. Shamir, Head of the Israeli Government, congratulated the terrorists on the success of their operation.

In a statement on 17 April, Mr. Ezer Weizman, Israeli Government Minister and member of the Council of Ministers, criticized the assassination of Abu Jihad in the strongest terms: That constitutes further proof of what took place. Lawyers tell us that a confession is the best proof.

Le Monde reporters in Israel say that they obtained information indicating that the elimination of Abu Jihad was a joint operation by the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, and the Israeli army, in implementation of a decision by the Israeli Government itself. Other well-informed sources have stated that the decision was taken by the Israeli Council of Ministers and endorsed by Peres and Weizman, although those reports have yet to be confirmed.

Do we not have sufficient evidence to incriminate Israel in the carrying out of this terrorist operation? Statements and reactions by Israeli leaders give us enough to go on; they are tantamount to a confession.

(Mr. Mestiri, Tunisia)

In these circumstances, blindness and great favouritism would be needed to acquit Israel; we hope that will not happen, and that Israel will not be given the green light to continue its State terrorism and unjustified acts of aggression.

On the basis of all I have said, the Tunisian Government requested the Security Council to consider the situation created by this new deliberate attack on Tunisia's territorial integrity, security and sovereignty, and invited it to condemn Israeli terrorism forcefully to prevent the repetition of such acts on Tunisian soil.

(Mr. Mestiri, Tunisia)

The Tunisian Government would also like to emphasize the fact that this is not the first time that Tunisia has been the target of terrorist acts perpetrated by Israel, acts which portend other attacks unless the Council takes practical and serious measures to counter Israeli terrorism.

Tunisia, which is mobilizing all its forces to consolidate democracy and the rule of law, as well as fundamental freedoms for individuals and groups, wishes to turn its energies to pursuing its economic well-being. We therefore condemn terrorism in all its forms, regardless of who commits it, not only because we are its victim but also because the opposition of terrorism is one of the pillars of civilized and humanitarian principles. That position is shared by all peace-loving countries and by all countries that have engaged to respect international law, whether written or customary.

In the light of its international responsibilities and moral authority, the Security Council is in duty bound to condemn the political assassination and State terrorism practised by Israel, as well as Israel's violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of my country.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, upon whom I now call.

Mr. AL-KIDWA (Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)) (interpretation from Arabic): Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, upon your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. We are confident that your outstanding qualities will contribute to the Council's work in the present difficult circumstances. We are also pleased that you represent a friendly African nation whose President, a prominent African leader, is a friend to our people and to all peoples struggling for freedom. In this connection, I should

(Mr. Al-Kidwa, Palestine
Liberation Organization)

also like to pay a tribute to the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia for the excellent and positive manner in which he led the Council's proceedings last month.

The Security Council is meeting once again to examine a serious criminal act having a direct bearing upon the Middle East crisis and serious implications for the situation in that entire area, as well as for peace and security in the Mediterranean region as a whole. It is, of course, no surprise that the perpetrator of this crime is the same culprit that has committed a great many similar crimes, contrary to all norms of international law and civilized behaviour.

For the second time in less than three years Israel has carried out an attack upon and committed an act of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State Member of the United Nations. With naval and air logistic support Israel dispatched a special commando unit to fraternal Tunisia with the aim of unleashing yet another criminal act on Tunisian territory in flagrant violation of international law and the provisions of the United Nations Charter, as well as the norms of civilized conduct among States.

As everyone here is aware, in the early hours of Saturday, 16 April, a special commando unit attacked the residence of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir, "Abu Jihad", Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Palestinian forces and member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), situated in Sidi Bou Said, in the northern suburbs of Tunis. The commando unit first assassinated three persons: a Tunisian citizen and two Palestinians serving as guards. The members of the commando unit then brutally assassinated Abu Jihad, pumping more than 70 bullets into his body, in the presence of his wife and young daughter. Another of his children, two years old, was also in the house.

Having committed their crime, the members of the commando left the scene, leaving three rented vehicles behind them on the beach at Raoued.

(Mr. Al-Kidwa, Palestine
Liberation Organization)

That is the horrible scenario. It reminds us of the crimes committed by the professional criminals in Beirut, Lebanon, when in 1973 a special Israeli unit assassinated three leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who had no chance to defend themselves. It also reminds us of the criminal Israeli air raid on Hammam-Plage in the suburbs of Tunis in 1985, a raid that left tens of dead Palestinians and Tunisians. At that time, the Council adopted resolution 573 (1985), in which it vigorously condemned the act of armed aggression perpetrated by Israel and demanded that Israel refrain from perpetrating such acts of aggression in the future.

(Mr. Al-Kidwa, Palestine
Liberation Organization)

It is now obvious that in this regard, as in all others, Israel has no respect for the resolutions of the Security Council.

The Palestine Liberation Organization takes this opportunity to make the following points.

First, we stress the responsibility of the Israeli Government at the highest level for this barbaric act. We do not need to give all the details of that responsibility here and now, because we are convinced that the whole world understands the facts. The Foreign Minister of Tunisia has given adequate details.

All those who try to find excuses for themselves and for Israel should check the logs of their naval fleets operating in the area and the images obtained by their satellites and their special equipment. They should also check the various media reports, such as the reports on NBC, in Time magazine and in the Washington Post, clearly quoting Israeli military sources and categorically proving Israel's responsibility for the act.

It is regrettable that some civilized nations do not show anger over the position of some Israeli officials, who try to exploit that dirty operation in order to enhance their standing domestically, while trying to shift the international responsibility for it. In that connection, we cannot fail to mention the responsibility of the United States, if only because of its special relationship with Israel and its high technical capabilities, which enable the United States to know in advance of such operations and to influence them. Even if we had a different working assumption, it is now an established fact that the biased United States position when it comes to Israel's illegitimate actions has been and continues to be a deterrent to the implementation of international law and the international mechanisms of the United Nations, thus opening the way for Israel to commit many more similar acts.

(Mr. Al-Kidwa, Palestine
Liberation Organization)

The most recent example of such bias was the United States veto of a draft resolution put before the Council after Israel's deportation to Lebanon of eight Palestinian civilians from the occupied Palestinian territories, in clear contravention of Security Council resolutions 607 (1988) and 608 (1988), let alone the Fourth Geneva Convention. Consistent with that deportation policy, Israel expelled eight more Palestinians last Tuesday.

Secondly, what happened was undoubtedly an act of State-sponsored terrorism, which requires a firm position by the Security Council. In our view, it was one of the gravest forms of terrorism, because of the use of sophisticated technological equipment, thus making its consequences more serious. We cannot understand or accept the double standard of some circles on the all-important question of international terrorism. It is completely illogical for countries that enthusiastically oppose international terrorism to take different positions when it comes to certain terrorist acts carried out by some of their allies. We reiterate our conviction that failing to give due attention to such terrorist acts will lead to more serious actions in our modern world, including the creation of a state of chaos in international relations.

Israel's record is replete with acts of terrorism carried out over a long period of time. I shall not review here all Israel's actions in the occupied territories; I shall not speak about its crimes in Lebanon. But I should like to cite some of its recent acts of terrorism, which technically comply, so to speak, with the concepts of terrorism held by some: specifically, the assassination of three Palestinians in Cyprus on 14 February this year and the blowing up of the Palestinian ship of return in the same month, in the same friendly and peaceful country.

(Mr. Al-Kidwa, Palestine
Liberation Organization)

Thirdly, this Israeli act of terrorism will undoubtedly have serious consequences in the immediate future for the situation in the occupied territories and in the Middle East in general. It will also have a very negative impact on the endeavours to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. We cannot imagine any party making endeavours for peace without directly participating in efforts to mitigate the consequences of what happened and to punish those responsible. At least the parties concerned need to gain the minimum credibility.

The martyr Abu Jihad was a genuine top leader of our Palestinian people. Although he was a military official, his great role cannot be minimized. He was one of those who fashioned the modern history of our people. He was one of the pioneers responsible for creating a new political vision and hope for the future, and for imbuing a generation of Palestinians with the hope that they will attain their human rights as individuals and their political rights as a people.

(Mr. Al-Kidwa, Palestine
Liberation Organization)

Abu Jihad is to me, as well as to all the Palestinian people, an inspiring leader who will continue to inspire us on the path towards the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including the right to return to its homeland, the right to self-determination and the right to establish its independent state.

By assassinating Abu Jihad Israel tried to deal a mortal blow to the Palestinians, especially those in the occupied Palestinian territories, in the hope of thwarting the national uprising. This is emphasized by the Israeli occupation authorities' sharp escalation of criminal acts against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Those acts included all forms of oppression and torture that have been condemned by the international community. Let no one think, however, that those repressive measures will ever succeed in erasing the identity of a people; they will instead reinforce the Palestinian people's resolve to achieve its legitimate national rights.

Before concluding I must place on record the position of the Palestinian people toward sisterly Tunisia, towards the great Tunisian people and towards the Tunisian Government. We highly regard the position of Tunisia and the sacrifices it has made for the Palestinian cause. The Palestinian people will remain grateful to Tunisia and we shall always commemorate the comingled Palestinian and Tunisian bloodshed in the cause of national pride and dignity.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization for the kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Al-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): I shall be making this statement in my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for this month.

I am pleased, Sir, to tell you how gratified the Arab Group and my delegation are at seeing you presiding over the Security Council's deliberations this month. We are fully confident that your experience and wisdom will indeed be the best guarantee for the success of the Council's work this month. We are all the more satisfied by your presidency, Sir, because of the common struggle which unites our peoples against the rabid racist régimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine.

May I take this opportunity to express to the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia, Mr. Dragoslav Pejic, our appreciation for his efforts to promote the role of the Security Council in dealing with the important issues before it during his presidency last month. We congratulate him for the excellent manner in which he presided over the Council's deliberations and for the successes he achieved.

The Security Council convenes today to consider one of the gravest challenges faced by the international community to date, the assassination of the great Palestinian leader, Khalil al-Wazir, "Abu Jihad", in his home in the capital of Tunisia, Tunis, by members of the Israeli Mossad.

The Security Council has just heard the important statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Mr. Mohammed Mestiri, which leaves no room for doubt that that terrorist act of assassination was planned and undertaken by members of the Israeli intelligence service, the Mossad, after approval by the Israeli Council of Ministers. That was clearly mentioned and pointed to in press reports and press analyses from occupied Palestine. It was an act that violated Tunisia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability.

(Mr. Al-Masri, Syrian Arab
Republic)

It will be recalled that Israel perpetrated an act of aggression against Tunisia's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity in October 1985, when six Israeli military aircraft bombed the locality of Borj-Cedria, called Hammam-Plage, a small town situated in the southern suburbs of Tunis, an attack resulting in many losses of life and property. The Security Council, in resolution 573 (1985), condemned that act of armed aggression perpetrated by Israel against Tunisian land in clear violation of the Charter and the rules of international law and behaviour. It called upon Israel to "refrain from perpetrating such acts of aggression or from the threat to do so".

In a flagrant defiance of the Council and its resolution, Israel perpetrated a new act of aggression against Tunisia: this time its victims were the militant Abu Jihad and a number of his assistants. This proves to the world yet again that Israel persists with impunity in its outlaw behaviour and its terrorist acts, both inside and outside the occupied territories and against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other States.

Abu Jihad always fought to liberate his national soil from Zionist occupation and to restore the national rights of his Arab Palestinian people according to international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of justice of civilized society. His assassination was more than an act of State terrorism: it was a flagrant, premeditated violation of Tunisia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(Mr. Al-Masri, Syrian
Arab Republic)

As the highest international organ entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security the Security Council, in which the international community has reposed its full confidence, cannot allow that crime to go without punishment. Furthermore, the Council must take effective measures to ensure respect for law and for the sovereignty of States and their territorial integrity and to prevent the perpetration of further such terrorist acts in future.

Those who assassinated Abu Jihad thought that by that act they would put an end to the uprising of our peoples in the occupied Arab territories against Zionist occupation and crimes. However, they were mistaken; even though they indeed managed to assassinate an individual, they cannot assassinate an entire people. Our brothers' uprising in the occupied Arab territories will continue until victory; it will continue until full and complete liberation. The assassination of the great Palestinian leader Abu Jihad has merely fed the flames of that uprising; it has made the earth shake under the boots of the Israeli occupation's soldiers. The wave of anger and revolt of the masses in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Arab Golan has met with more barbarism by the Israeli occupation forces, which in turn led to further dozens of martyred and wounded Palestinians and more deportations from the occupied territories.

In December last year the Security Council met at the very outset of the popular Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, and it met again several times since then, adopting resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988), in which it reaffirmed the need for Israel to abide by the provisions of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Those resolutions called on Israel to put an end immediately to its policies and practices which are in violation of the provisions of the Convention.

(Mr. Al-Masri, Syrian
Arab Republic)

Instead of heeding those resolutions, Israel has escalated its barbaric oppressive measures against our brothers in the occupied Arab territories. Indeed, it has sent its terrorist groups and commandos to Tunisia to carry out an act of assassination on the very territory of that country.

The Palestinian uprising is the strongest possible expression of the rejection of Zionist occupation; it demonstrates the entrenched determination to continue the struggle until the inalienable national aspirations of the Palestinian people are achieved - in particular the right to return, the right to self-determination and the right to build its own independent State on its homeland.

This uprising has given the whole world a true picture of the Zionist entity in all its Fascist and racist ugliness, with all its terrorist practices. It has once again placed before the world the cause of a people which has suffered for 40 years, whether in occupied Palestine in 1948 or in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories since 1967. This is a people which has suffered from acts of aggression, acts of dispersal and acts of racism, which the Tel Aviv régime is perpetrating daily through its policy of declared official terrorism, sometimes called the policy of the iron fist, and its practices of killing children, youths and women, demolishing homes and beating the inhabitants, mass detentions and torture. Many of these acts were pointed out in the Secretary-General's report contained in document S/19443. As the report states, many of these youths were under the age of 16 and some as young as 11 years old. Those measures have now reached a point where the occupied Arab territories are totally under siege; they are totally isolated from the outside world, in an attempt to blanket Israeli practices in those territories and the deportation of Palestinian nationals from their homeland.

(Mr. Al-Masri, Syrian
Arab Republic)

The uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the face of Zionist violence aimed at their very lives, property, dignity and everything they hold sacred deserves the support of the international community represented in this Council, so that that people may indeed enjoy its inalienable national rights, including the right to return to its homeland and its right to self-determination and the establishment of its own independent State on its national soil, which cannot be negotiated.

Our people in the occupied Arab territories will maintain their struggle to liberate their territories from Israeli occupation. As they have always shown the world, they are ready to make sacrifices, regardless of the cost. The assassination of individuals, the slaying of children and women, the breaking of bones, the acts of torture, the demolition of homes and the dispersal of their inhabitants, and the beating of women in the streets and even in their own homes by the Israeli occupation forces, as well as Israel's escalation of its barbaric oppressive and Fascist practices, which are unprecedented in the history of Fascist racist régimes except perhaps in the case of South Africa, cannot put down our people's struggle to liberate their land from Israeli occupation.

The Security Council, which is today considering Tunisia's complaint against Israeli aggression on its land and sovereignty and against the assassination of the great Palestinian leader Abu Jihad, is called upon to shoulder its responsibilities. It is called upon to play an effective role in the maintenance of international peace and security, a role which has been paralysed owing to the repeated abuse of the right of veto. It is called upon to condemn that Israeli act of aggression against and violation of Tunisia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir "Abu Jihad".

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Jordan. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. SALAH (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to say at the outset that I am happy to speak for the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which have authorized me to make this statement on their behalf.

I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. We are convinced that, thanks to your personal and professional qualities, your great diplomatic skill and wide experience, the Council will be able to discharge its duties in an exemplary manner. I should also like to thank and congratulate your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia, Mr. Dragoslav Pejic, on his skilful and highly objective conduct of the business of the Council last month.

The Security Council is meeting today to consider the complaint submitted by Tunisia on the act of aggression to which it fell victim. At dawn last Saturday, 16 April, an Israeli unit, numbering approximately 30, by air and sea violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia, assassinating the number two leader of the revolutionary forces of Palestine, the late Khalil al-Wazir, in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law.

From document S/19798, dated 19 April 1988, which contains the complaint of Tunisia, it is quite clear that Israel is responsible for this dastardly assassination. A number of highly placed Israeli leaders and some of the Israeli media have also established Israel's responsibility. A large number of Israeli personalities - particularly Israeli extremists - have welcomed this crime.

I should like to quote some excerpts from a lengthy article which appeared on the front page of the latest edition of the Washington Post, on Thursday 21 April 1988 concerning an inquiry on this subject, under the byline of Glenn Frankel. I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

this very important inquiry which was conducted in the Holy City of Jerusalem. The extracts I am about to quote from this lengthy article establish quite clearly the responsibility of the Israeli Government for the violation of Tunisian sovereignty and the premeditated plan that gave rise to the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir in Tunisia.

(spoke in English)

"... the assassination was approved by Israel's policy-making inner cabinet, according to informed sources here ... [In Jerusalem]

"The operation was planned and carried out by a combined team from the Mossad spy agency, the Army, Navy and Air Force, but the actual assassination early Saturday morning in Tunis was carried out by a special Army commando unit known in Hebrew as the Sayeret Matkal, sources said. The name translates as 'reconnaissance party of the general staff'.

"The raid was overseen by several senior military commanders in a specially equipped Boeing 707 who were in constant radio contact with the squad on the ground.

"The 10-member inner cabinet discussed the assassination twice before approving it ... No formal vote was taken at the second session, but the only dissenting voice was that of Ezer Weizman ...

"Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who raised objections at the previous session, was silent at the Wednesday meeting ... Education Minister Yitzhak Navon, who also had objected to the plan, was overseas and did not attend ...

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

"Such an operation, wrote Yoel Marcus, columnist for the Hebrew Daily Haaretz, 'is good for our egos, but doesn't deal with the serious problems facing our country'. Israel, he warned, is reverting to 'the same methods and tools that were appropriate 20, 30, 40 years ago. ...

"At best, these critics contend, the assassination will be a serious short-term blow to the already fragile Middle East peace process ...

"For several days, Israel's official silence enforced by military censorship, was effective in concealing the Government's role, even though the modus operandi clearly was Israeli ...

"Even Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ... has not been able to restrain himself from broad hints. At a memorial ceremony for Israeli war dead last night, Shamir said, 'Let's hope that our enemies will realize and understand that Israel knows how to wage war, and that all those who hurt us will be hurt manifold' ...

"Three of the Army's top commanders have experience with raids such as the one against Wazir. The chief of staff, General Dan Shomron," - the present chief of staff - "led the raid on the Entebbe, Uganda, airport in 1976 ... His Deputy, Maj. Gen. Ehud Barak led a 30-member commando squad that killed three major PLO leaders and dozens of Palestinian guerrillas in Beirut in 1973. The commander of that operation, General Amnon Shahak, is now head of military intelligence.

"Analysts say the assassination especially fits the strategic thinking of Barak, a commander who favours swift, limited strikes over grand-scale operations ...

"While the raiders were approaching their target, a Boeing 707 equipped like an American airborne warning and control system aircraft, with

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

sophisticated electronic gear, was flying over the Mediterranean just outside Tunisian air space. The plane was used not only to jam telephone communications around Wazir's home, as Tunisian investigators have charged, but also to monitor and co-ordinate the entire operation."

(continued in Arabic)

This Israeli attitude comes as no surprise to us. We are used to it. This attack reminds us of a similar attack to which Tunisia fell victim on 1 October 1985, the Israeli air attack on the Hammam Plage region, a southern suburb of Tunis, in order to destroy the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization. At that time the Security Council adopted resolution 573 (1985) in which it demanded that Israel refrain from perpetrating such acts of aggression and urged States Members of the United Nations to take measures to dissuade Israel from resorting to such acts.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

This latest act of aggression reminds us of another Israeli act: In 1973 a group of Israeli commandos assassinated in identical circumstances three PLO leaders in Beirut, flagrantly violating Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The list of Israel's crimes is a very long one, beginning with the Deir Yassin and other massacres perpetrated by the leaders of the Zionist organizations that founded Israel; given Israel's expansionist and aggressive nature, that list will certainly not close with this attack against Tunisia and the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir.

This case reminds us also of Israel's 1981 aerial aggression against Iraq and its destruction of the peaceful nuclear reactor, of Israeli aggression against the territorial integrity of Lebanon, much of whose territory has been under occupation, including its capital, Beirut. The southern part of Lebanon, the so-called security zone, is occupied by Israel to this day. We recall also last February's assassination of three PLO leaders in Cyprus and the explosion, also in Cyprus, of the ship carrying Palestinian returnees.

Any observer of the Israeli leadership can discern in these examples a precise concept of Israeli security: that Israel alone determines what it believes to be a threat to its security, then acts on this as it sees fit, irrespective of international law and practice. With respect to secure borders, Israel arrogates unto itself the rights it would deny others: It is ironical that Israel demands secure borders while States near Israel's borders are subject to attack. Israel continues to occupy Arab lands and act under arbitrary laws against the legitimate owners of those lands. It ejects them, it attacks States that offer them hospitality, it carries out military operations of sabotage and reprisal - all under the cover of self-defence. We could expect worse catastrophes were all States to adopt the same notion of security.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

These misguided notions of security and self-defence pose a threat not only to neighbouring States but also to the entire world; they would make the entire world the preserve of Israel. Israeli acts carried out on the basis of those notions contravene the principles of international law and the norms of State conduct; they violate the fundamental principles on the basis of which the United Nations was established and which govern relations among States, first and foremost the principle of the non-use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of other States, as set out in Article 2 (4) of the Charter, the principle of the sovereign equality of States, and the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination.

Israel's violation of these and other principles of international law over the past 40 years is the true reason for the tension and instability in the Middle East, which has been unable to lead a normal existence guaranteeing freedom, tranquillity, prosperity and progress for all the peoples of the region.

The Israeli aggression now before the Council, which resulted in the murder of a principal leader of the PLO, is but one entry in the long list of Israel's repeated attacks against the Palestinian people, both within the occupied Arab territories and outside them. Israel attempts to portray these attacks as a simple reaction to the Palestinian people's struggle and resistance, which Israel characterises as "terrorism".

But the truth is very different. The Palestinian struggle is in response to the acts of aggression to which Palestinians have been victim both on their own lands and in exile. The resistance is intended only to realize the national aspirations of the Palestinians: to put an end to occupation, to achieve self-determination and to lead a normal, stable life as enjoyed by all the other peoples of the world.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

Israel always blames the Palestinians for terrorist acts in the Middle East, but it is in fact Israel that orchestrates them. Such acts preceded the founding of Israel and have continued since; they have become official policy. I have not the time to go into all the acts of terrorism of which the Palestinians have been victim at the hands of Zionist organizations in Palestine before and since the founding of Israel.

Israel thinks that by liquidating a principal leader of the PLO it can put an end to the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza and shatter the resolve of that valiant, fighting people. But Israel has made a great mistake: In fact, the Palestinian struggle is not a struggle of individuals, but rather the struggle of a people, a people that is determined to pursue its struggle to regain its national rights and freedoms, a people that has faith in its cause. The Palestinian people has not met the expectations of Israel: Dozens more martyrs have fallen, for Palestine is dear to the hearts of its inhabitants; it is sacred to all the world's Muslims.

We offer our sincerest condolences to the PLO and the Palestinian people for the great loss suffered in the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, and we express our solidarity with the Palestinian people.

We further state our full solidarity with the Government and the people of Tunisia. Because of its devotion to the principles of international law, Tunisia occupies an important place on the international scene. Tunisia has offered its hospitality to Palestinians in this third exodus; it has always supported their legitimate struggle for dignity and freedom. Tunisia is well known for its policy of moderation, open-mindedness, friendship and cordiality.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

We reiterate that the Israeli attack against Tunisian sovereignty and territorial integrity is a crime that must certainly be punished. For that reason we call upon the Security Council to adopt a resolution reaffirming its resolution 573 (1985) and compelling Israel to respect its international obligations in keeping with the principles of the Charter, and in particular Article 2 (4).

We also call upon the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, to keep this matter under review and report to the Council on any new information and on progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his statement expressing his great concern at the attack by Israel. Tunisia has submitted a complaint to the Security Council, thereby demonstrating its confidence in the Council and in its ability to punish the aggressor and force it to respect the principles of international law upon which the Organization is based. If that is not done Israel will continue to use force as an instrument to achieve its ambitions for territorial expansion and to practise it in the occupied Arab territories and throughout the Middle East.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Jordan for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): If the situation were not so tragic for Tunisia, I would say to His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, the Tunisian Minister for Foreign Affairs, how pleased we are to see him again. Things being as they are, however, I should like to express to him, on my own behalf and on behalf of my entire delegation, our respect and our friendship for him personally and for his country.

France condemns all acts of violence, which are obstacles to the easing of tensions, to dialogue and to the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

All of us here are committed to the quest for a just and lasting peace that can ensure the security of all States of the region and justice for all peoples. Individually or collectively, we have all undertaken a determined effort to achieve such a settlement. France, for its part, has continuously advocated dialogue and it tirelessly repeats that peace and security require mutual recognition, which will pave the way towards negotiations.

The assassination of one of the main Palestinian leaders constitutes a flagrant and brutal blow to the goal shared by the international community as a whole, namely, the establishment of peace based on the principles of law and

(Mr. Blanc, France)

justice and through the concerted actions of all the parties concerned. We cannot but condemn such an act.

At the same time that act constitutes a new and intolerable attack against Tunisian sovereignty. In these trying times we wish to express our entire sympathy and solidarity to that friendly State, with which France maintains especially close relations.

Tunisia symbolizes a tradition of hospitality deeply rooted in the heart of the Arab nation. Given the wisdom of its policy and the soundness of its decisions, that country, under the distinguished leadership of President Ben Ali, is an ideal place for meetings, for exchanges of views and for dialogue. How can we fail to feel outrage at any act that is aimed at negating the values embodied by Tunisia and at undermining the friendship and respect it enjoys in the international community?

The Council must express in the strongest possible terms the international community's condemnation of that attack. The Council must reaffirm its respect for the dignity with which the Tunisian Government is shouldering its responsibilities at this difficult time. The United Nations must assure Tunisia of its sympathy and active solidarity.

Sir Crispin TICKELL (United Kingdom): We are now happily familiar with you, Sir, as President, but I convey my best wishes to you all the same, in the knowledge that you do not really need them. We also convey our thanks to your predecessor for his exceptional management of the Council at an arduous time.

We also welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, who returns as an old friend on a sad and, I am afraid, bitter occasion.

The murder of Khalil al-Wazir, a leading member of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in Tunis on 16 April was a senseless act of terrorism. We do not

(Sir Crispin Tickell, United Kingdom)

know with certainty who was responsible, nor whether a Government directed the murderers.

We condemn terrorism in all its forms. But support or sponsorship of murder by Governments is doubly repugnant: it is a betrayal of the natural expectation of the international community that Governments will uphold the rule of law. The General Assembly in resolutions 40/61 of 1985 and 42/159 of 1987 unequivocally condemned as criminal all acts, methods and practices of terrorism whatever and by whomever committed, including those which jeopardize friendly relations among States and their security. Murder of a political adversary indicates a refusal to listen to his arguments and meet them in kind. It means a rejection of the processes by which the problems of Palestine must eventually be resolved if a still greater tragedy is to be averted. The Council, in its knowledge of the background to this incident, is all too familiar with the consequences of policies which support or condone terrorism.

In October 1985 the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunisia was the target of an attack which constituted a grave affront to Tunisian sovereignty. Then, as now, the Government and the people of Tunisia deserve the sympathy of the international community for an outrage committed on Tunisian soil. Tunisia has an honourable history of participation in United Nations peace-keeping and of contributions to the work of the Council. Tunisia has been generous in its hospitality to victims of other conflicts. It deserves better than repeated assaults upon its security.

My delegation wishes to express its sympathy to the family of Khalil al-Wazir, particularly his wife and daughter, who suffered the horror of witnessing the murder. We also express our sympathy to the Palestinian people for their loss. Our condolences go equally to the families of the three others who were murdered in the attack.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his kind words and best wishes addressed to me.

Mr. SARRE (Senegal) (interpretation from French): First, Sir, I wish to convey to you my delegation's congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. Your mandate gives us in Senegal reason for hope, since your great country, Zambia, has presided with great devotion and competence over the affairs of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). We are convinced that under your competent, dynamic leadership the Council will successfully discuss the burning issues before it.

Allow me also to pay tribute to the energetic, exemplary and wise way in which your predecessor, Ambassador Pejic of Yugoslavia, conducted the Council's business during a particularly busy period.

My country was shocked and indignant to learn of the latest act of aggression against a friendly, peaceful country, Tunisia. Once again there has been a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country member of the United Nations. That act is indefensible in international law. My country expresses its solidarity with the Tunisian people, and we take this opportunity to express our great concern that there should be no similar violations of Tunisian territory in the future.

The violation of Tunisian territorial integrity resulted in the assassination of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir, a highly placed leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). His assassination has been condemned by the whole international community.

The presence amongst us of His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Ahmed Mestiri, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Tunisia, clearly reflects the concern of the Tunisian authorities over this twofold act: the violation of a State's territorial integrity and terrorism.

(Mr. Sarré, Senegal)

Respect for the territorial integrity of States is a guiding principle of the United Nations Charter, and the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions has categorically condemned terrorism.

There is no need to describe again the facts giving rise to this meeting. Nor shall I go into the evidence directly implicating Israel. Other speakers have already done so eloquently and authoritatively. I shall simply mention the following facts.

There is conclusive information showing that there is no shadow of a doubt, either amongst Arabs or Israelis, that Israel deliberately violated Tunisia's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Secondly, the scale of the means used and the consummate professionalism of the perpetrators excludes the possibility of a group of individuals acting in an isolated way.

Those facts are of great concern to my Government, because of their consequences for the credibility of a number of principles on which the present international order is based.

We regard the murder of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir as a definite act of terrorism. The fact that it was sponsored by a State Member of our Organization and carried out on the territory of another gives the situation a peculiar character of its own.

While international terrorism is in and of itself a scourge that must be combated, State-sponsored terrorism is the most dangerous form for the stability of relations between States and the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Security Council must unequivocally condemn on the one hand the repeated violation of Tunisia's territorial integrity and sovereignty and on the other hand the assassination of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir, as a terrorist act that the international community finds intolerable. Such condemnation would be in keeping with the

(Mr. Sarre, Senegal)

principles defined by the Security Council in its resolutions 578 (1985) and 579 (1985) and by the General Assembly in its resolutions 40/61 of 9 December 1985 and 42/159 of 7 December 1987.

My country's respect for the human person draws its strength from the humanist traditions of Senegalese society and the fundamental provisions of our Constitution, which provides, among other things, that the human person is sacred and the State has the duty to respect and protect it. That is why Mr. al-Wazir's murder cannot fail to arouse our condemnation.

We also fully condemn the flagrant violation of the territorial integrity and independence of Tunisia, a friendly country and a Member of the United Nations, well known for its devotion to peace and co-operation between nations. The infiltration of commandos from Israel and the carrying out of murder on Tunisian soil violate all the rules of international law and the spirit and letter of the Charter of our Organization.

Senegal wishes once again to express to the delegation of Tunisia the sympathy and solidarity of the fraternal people of Senegal at this difficult time. We also wish to convey our condolences to the Palestine Liberation Organization, the bereaved family of Mr. al-Wazir and the families of the other victims.

Before I conclude I should like to say a few words about what seems to me to be the source of all these tragic events - the situation in the Middle East. The violation of Tunisia's territorial integrity and sovereignty and the assassination of a highly placed Palestinian leader are brutal reminders of the imperative need to find a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, at the core of which is the question of Palestine. While we lack a political solution guaranteeing the Palestinians the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and the creation of a State, and guaranteeing that all the

(Mr. Sarre, Senegal)

States of the region may live in peace within secure and recognized borders, it will be difficult to halt the cycle of violence that for more than 40 years has sown death and disarray in that part of the world.

The cause of peace is not served by the assassination of political leaders, deportations, collective punishments and the muzzling of the press to meet the needs of repression. Such acts simply postpone the reaching of a peaceful settlement and cast doubt on the ability of the United Nations to find just and lasting solutions to conflicts that are a constant threat to international peace and security.

Senegal continues to believe in the possibility of a political solution to the Middle East conflict. Such a solution should be sought within the framework of the international peace conference on the Middle East, as laid down in many General Assembly resolutions. As in the past, my country will continue to make its modest contribution to efforts to find a just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Senegal for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria) (interpretation from French): First, Sir, on behalf of the Algerian delegation and on my own behalf I wish to express a warm welcome to our brother His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, Foreign Minister of Tunisia. His presence here and his detailed statement to the Council point to the extreme seriousness of the events that have just occurred in his country.

I need not emphasize the strong bonds of friendship and solidarity that join our two countries in our search for a common future. That means that everything affecting Tunisia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence is of direct concern to Algeria and becomes a matter of prime importance in our policy.

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

On the night of 15-16 April, using the most sophisticated means in its war machine and obviously with traditional accomplices without whom such an operation would have been inconceivable, the Zionist secret service violated the sovereignty and integrity of Tunisia, entered the domicile of a Palestinian leader, killed the guards who were protecting him and murdered him with unprecedented savagery.

Having been bombed on 1 October 1985 by the Israeli air force, Tunisia, a brother country and neighbour, is thus once again the victim of aggression which, while underscoring the nature and seriousness of the violation of international law that it represents, earns its perpetrator the international community's firmest condemnation.

There can be no doubt that it is the Zionist leaders who bear direct responsibility for this crime. One need not merely wonder who benefits from the crime in order to identify its perpetrator: In this case the criminal - assured, today as yesterday, of impunity by virtue of the indulgence heaped upon it even in this Council - did not take any precautions and even went so far as to acknowledge with consummate cynicism and arrogance the existence of an assassination plan which had long been in the making.

In cold-bloodedly murdering Abu Jihad, a pillar of the Palestinian resistance, the mere mention of whose name evokes continuity in the national liberation struggle and the inevitability of its victory, the Zionist leaders obviously wished to demolish the symbol and example which he represented.

They also wanted to quash the popular uprising which has continued in the occupied Arab territories for four months now with daily deaths, wounded and imprisoned as well as expulsions.

By this odious assassination, the Israeli leaders have simply revealed to the world their extreme disarray in the face of the resolve and heroism of mere

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

adolescents armed only with their faith and who, day after day, tirelessly proclaim their rejection of occupation and, with their stones, the national reality of a Palestinian people convinced of the rightness of its cause and determined to see it triumph.

In an orgy of frenzied abandon the occupying Power has spewed all its spite, hatred and rage in an attempt to repress a popular uprising that cannot be stopped. The Zionists may have been able to eliminate the fighter, but not the symbol. The children of Abu Jihad, witnesses to his murder, are the same age as their brothers fighting in the occupied territories. The legacy of Abu Jihad is that young Palestinians today have taken up the cudgels for their people's irresistible national aspirations.

It has long been established that the Zionist régime, far from abiding by international law, systematically ignores and violates that law, placing itself above universally accepted standards - encouraged, as it is, by the impunity it enjoys, to pile one fait accompli upon another. For several decades the Israeli leaders have been resorting to a special kind of morality in carrying out their aggressive ideology of domination and conquest.

A symptom of that ideology, the terrorist operation against Abu Jihad is a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia, a hospitable, fraternal country in solidarity with us and with all peoples fighting for full recognition of their rights.

This act of aggression also reveals that the Zionist leaders have chosen the Maghreb as a natural extension of the Middle East in which to express their policy of power politics. Thus the Middle East conflict threatens the very gates of Europe, which has been secure for many years but is now suddenly vulnerable.

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

Thus also, the Zionist régime shows its similarity to the power of apartheid, which a few days ago, with comparable premeditation, murdered freedom fighters in Gaborone and in Paris.

Once again, the Security Council must face its responsibilities under the Charter. Will it continue to permit a régime which ignores universally accepted standards to continue to violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, to assassinate men, women and children in cold blood, to resort to the most abject forms of intimidation and terror?

The Council must today condemn, in the strongest terms, the Zionist régime's violation of Tunisia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Equally, it must condemn the odious murder of a Palestinian leader in Tunis. Lastly, it must call upon the Zionist régime to respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of Palestinian citizens and to cease resorting to violence against them.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Algeria for the kind words he addressed to me.

In view of the lateness of the hour, I intend now to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting of the Security Council to continue the consideration of the item on the agenda will take place tomorrow, Friday, 22 April 1988, promptly at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.