



Mission permanente d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Itzhak Levanon
Permanent Representative

7th Regular Session
Human Rights Council

Consideration of Reports under Agenda Item #7

Follow-up to **Resolution S-3(1)**

6 March 2008

Mr. President,

Soon after this utterly biased and one-sided resolution was passed, I had a meeting with Reverend Tutu, and I personally suggested that he seek to fulfill his mission via countries other than Israel. I pointed out that the resolution didn't specify how the fact-finding mission was to reach Beit Hanoun.

In the 18 months that have passed since this resolution was adopted, I have remained in contact with Reverend Tutu on this issue. Recently, I received a letter from him indicating that he will visit Beit Hanoun by entering through Egypt. I am glad that he has finally accepted my initial proposal. What I regret is that the mission delayed their activities by a year and a half and in doing so created a negative impression of my country. It is a fallacy to link the fact that Reverend Tutu has not yet reached Beit Hanoun with an alleged refusal by Israel to grant visas.

What remains, then, Mr. President, is to express again and again our rejection of biased and one-sided resolutions and to convey our wish that Reverend Tutu and Professor Chinkin will maintain their pledge to keep an open mind and objectively take into account all stakeholders in the region.



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Mr. President,

Israel boycotted the 6th Special Session because it perpetuated the OIC and Arab Group's ongoing abuse of Human Rights Council mechanisms for their own political posturing.

The Special Session's proponents made no effort to draft a resolution which bore any real resemblance to facts on the ground.

For the benefit of everyone here today, I will point out a simple fact. The resolution which was drafted, tabled and voted on at the 6th Special Session is surprisingly similar with the resolution that has been drafted, tabled and is before us today. It even requests the exact same outcome: a report by the High Commissioner at the next session of the Council. This leads me to the conclusion that it is not the content of any individual resolution that is important, but rather that in the eyes of the Arab Group and the OIC, it is the accumulation of resolution which counts.

Mr. President,

It is obvious that the Palestinian permanent observer, the OIC and the Arab Group cannot be bothered to exert themselves creatively and instead resort to submitting duplicate resolutions. Therefore, I suggest that we allow the High Commissioner's office to save some time, money and effort in implementing this resolution, and all agree that it may submit a duplicate follow-up report at the next session of the Human Rights Council.

Thank you.