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MEAT

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 April 1982

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Prime Minister

A.F.C. 2/4

t-a. 22/4

Dear John,

Shooting Incident at the Dome of the Rock Mosque: Statement
by the Israeli Prime Minister

The Israeli Embassy delivered, on 19 April, a statement by Mr Begin about the shooting incident at the Dome of the Rock Mosque (or Temple Mount) in East Jerusalem in which two Palestinians were killed and several others wounded. I enclose a copy of the statement, which the Embassy were instructed to deliver to the Prime Minister.

The statement is cast in emotional terms. The accusations against other Arab countries are exaggerated and not relevant to this particular incident. The Arabs would no doubt respond by pointing to eg Israeli attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

You will have seen UKMis New York telegrams nos 508-9 reporting the outcome of the Security Council debate and our explanation of vote which, despite our positive vote on the text, questioned the need for a resolution on this kind of incident.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
2 PALACE GREEN
LONDON W8 4QB
Telephone: 01-937 8050

שגרירות ישראל
לונדון

Statement by the Prime Minister's Office

15th April 1982

History will record that during the days of Passover, 5742 - April 1982 - the forces of black reaction perpetrated a blood libel against the Jewish People in its homeland, while the civilised, democratic world once again stood by and remained silent.

A sick man ascended the Temple Mount, sacred to the three monotheistic religions, opened fire, and killed and wounded innocent people. He was arrested and will be brought to trial, in accordance with the law of the land.

This human tragedy has been exploited in order to convene a special session of the Security Council, where despicable charges against the People of Israel are being voiced. Who are those attempting to place an entire nation in the dock on account of the crime of one, mentally-ill man? They are:

Syria: Its government has slaughtered thousands of Christians, women and children, in Lebanon. Several weeks ago it destroyed dozens of mosques and massacred thousands of civilians - men, women and infants - in the city of Hama.

Jordan: In order to be rid of the organisation called the PLO, heavy artillery of this nation shelled refugee camps and killed thousands of their residents - men, women and little children.



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
2 PALACE GREEN
LONDON W8 4OB
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Iraq: This nation started a war of aggression against its neighbour and, despite its failure in (conducting) this war, has already caused thousands of soldiers and civilians - on both sides of the front - to lose their lives.

Iran: This nation has reintroduced the darkness of the Middle Ages into our time - tortured mercilessly in its dungeons, and executed thousands of civilians, man and women.

Saudi Arabia: Hands are still cut off, in accordance with "court sentences", in this nation, and it is ruled by one family of predatory princes.

A Moslem citizen of Turkey attempted to assassinate the Head of the Catholic Church, attacked His Holiness Pope John Paul II, and seriously wounded him. Was this man's nationality or religion accused of this crime?

Only when the Jewish People is concerned is the guilt of one person turned into the source of incitement against many, against his nation.

There are accomplices to the inciters in the Security Council, and besides the voice of truth of Israel's representative, the voice of human civilisation and freedom has not yet been heard.

But let the enemies of Israel, wherever they may be, take note: The days when the Jewish People was defenceless and paid with rivers of blood of its sons on account of false libels brought against it by evil men - these days are gone, never to return.

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12 APR 1982

