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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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AMBASSAOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**DURING**

**THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL  
AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE  
(FOURTH COMMITTEE)**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 32:**

**“REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO  
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING  
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND  
OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES”**

**NEW YORK  
7 NOVEMBER 2006**

I would like to thank the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for the report (document A/61/500) tabled before this Committee. A special word of thanks also goes to the Chairman of the Special Committee for his able leadership, H.E. Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Chairman,

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories that derive its mandate from the General Assembly resolution 2443 (XXIII) represents an important component of the work of the United Nations. It is therefore of utmost importance that the Committee is given the support that it requires to carry out its work unhindered, effectively and without fear or favor. The cooperation of all Member States is crucial in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

It is regrettable that Members of the Committee were not given permission to undertake field visits to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Reporting on the basis of first hand information is always the best way. I hope that Members of the Committee will be allowed to visit the Occupied Territories in the future. I hope that the field trips to Egypt, Jordan and Syria will be undertaken in the course of this month as scheduled. We look forward to receiving an updated report that will be submitted to the General Assembly in early 2007.

Mr. Chairman,

The situation in the Occupied Territories constitutes a humanitarian disaster and human rights crisis. The most fundamental human right, the right to life, is violated on a daily basis. This situation should not be allowed to continue. It is important to realize that the will of the Palestinian People to self-determination cannot be killed. No amount of killing, detention and torture will kill the yearning for freedom and self-determination. For every Palestinian leader who is killed there are thousands others who are prepared to carry on the task.

It is equally important to recognize that the destruction of the state of Israel is neither feasible nor desirable. To kill the will of the Palestinian People to self-determination and to wish the destruction of the state of Israel are missions

impossible. The destruction of life and properties that goes on in the Occupied Territories cannot be justified. The only sustainable solution to the situation is the peaceful co-existence of the State of Palestine with the State of Israel. We call upon Members of the Quartet to implement the road map to achieve lasting peace.