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November 17, 1975

The Honorable Dr. Kurt Waldheim  
Secretary General, United Nations  
United Nations Building  
United Nations, New York

Dear Dr. Waldheim:

We Christian signatories of this letter deplore and denounce the recent actions of the Third Committee and the United Nations General Assembly, which passed a resolution designating Zionism as a form of Racism.

This equating of Zionism with Racism is wholly unacceptable. It is a slander against Jews everywhere, since it is a revival of the all too familiar Anti-Semitism which has plagued mankind through the centuries. It is moreover, a falsehood without historical justification. Worse, it is a denial of the premises and purposes of the United Nations as set down in its charter.

Zionism is a sacred word and concept in Judaism and as such it merits the respect and understanding of all Christians aware of their Judaic roots and heritage. The longing for return to the ancestral homeland has always been an integral part of Jewish life and piety and finds its roots deeply embedded in the Hebrew Scriptures (the Christians' Old Testament), the Rabbinic writings and the Jewish Liturgy. Thus does Zionism become for Christians in dialogue with their Jewish brothers and sisters an authentically religious and ecumenical concern.

Needless to say, we are conscious of the complexity of the tragic and dangerous situation in the Middle East today, and we sympathize with all those who suffer from it on either side of the conflict. Our sympathies however, do not allow us to close our eyes to the malice expressed in the resolution.

We believe that the shameful actions taken by the Third Committee and the General Assembly, risks placing the United Nations itself in jeopardy. Since the General Assembly has recklessly put its stamp of approval on that calumny against Jews around the world and against Israel, a member state in good standing, we insist that the U.S. Congress reexamine the level of its contribution to the support of a self-discredited United Nations.