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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

13 September 2010

Excellency,

Thank you for your letter dated 7 September 2010 and your sincere interest in hearing from all sides, including that of Israel, before concluding the work of your fact-finding mission.

As you are surely aware, on 14 June 2010, the Government of Israel appointed an Independent Public Commission which is headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Jacob Turkel with the participation of international observers. This Commission has held a significant number of hearings in the past few months and continues to gather testimony from a wide range of officials in Israel. These hearings are open and transcripts of the testimony have been made public, including in English via the website of the Commission. The expectation of the Commission is to conclude its work in a speedy manner.

Additionally, on 2 August 2010, the United Nations Secretary General announced the launching of a Panel of Inquiry into the events of 31 May 2010. After extensive consultations and negotiations, Israel agreed to cooperate with this Panel. Two rounds of meetings have already taken place. The expectation of the Panel is to conclude its work soon after the completion of the national processes in Israel and Turkey.

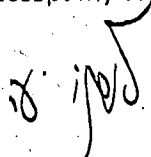
Given the continuing work of these two bodies, Israel believes that your mission would only have the necessary information before it in order to responsibly report to the Human Rights Council following the conclusion of work by those two bodies. During our meeting on 18 August 2010, you and the other members of your mission emphasized your desire for your findings to reflect fairly, and in conforming with international practice, the fullest picture possible regarding the events in question.

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Therefore, allowing for the completion of Israel's internal, domestic work together with its cooperation with the Panel established by the Secretary General would seem to be necessary before your mission would be able to report. I urge you to consider deferring the submission of your report in order to allow for those processes to reach their natural conclusions, unfettered by external events.

Please accept my continuing assurances of my highest regard and consideration.



Aharon Leshno-Yaar
Ambassador
Permanent Representative