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the preliminary list*

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

**Letter dated 8 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of
Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the final communiqué of the twenty-fifth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session for a Better Future for the Peoples of the Islamic Ummah) held at Doha, State of Qatar, from 17 to 19 Dhul Qaddah 1418H (15-17 March 1998).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex** circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 20 (b) to (d), 24, 26, 30, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 51, 52, 54, 57, 59, 63, 68, 69, 70, 72 (k), (l), (q) and (s), 75, 77, 84, 85, 87, 94 (a) and (d), 96, 97, 100, 101, 103, 105, 106, 107, 109, 113 (a) and (b) and 157 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser bin Hamad AL KHALIFA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the Islamic Group at the
United Nations

*A/53/50.

**The annex is being circulated in the languages of submission only.

Annex

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE
TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
(SESSION FOR A BETTER FUTURE
FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE ISLAMIC UMMAH)
DOHA, STATE OF QATAR
17-19 DHUL QAADAH 1418 H
(15-17 MARCH, 1998)**

1. In response to the kind invitation of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, the Twenty-fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (The Session for Better Future for the Peoples of the Islamic Ummah), convened in Doha, State of Qatar from 17 to 19 Dhul Qaadah, 1418H (15-17 March 1998).

2. (A) The Conference was attended by the following Member States:

1. Republic of Azerbaijan
2. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
3. State of United Arab Emirates
4. Republic of Indonesia
5. Republic of Uzbekistan
6. Republic of Uganda
7. Islamic Republic of Iran
8. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
9. State of Bahrain
10. Brunei Darussalam
11. People's Republic of Bangladesh
12. Republic of Benin
13. Burkina Faso
14. Republic of Tajikistan
15. Republic of Turkey
16. Turkmenistan
17. Republic of Chad
18. Republic of Togo
19. Republic of Tunisia
20. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
21. Republic of Djibouti
22. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
23. Republic of Senegal
24. Republic of Sudan
25. Syrian Arab Republic
26. Republic of Suriname
27. Republic of Sierra Leone
28. Republic of Somalia
29. Republic of Iraq
30. Sultanate of Oman
31. Republic of Gabon
32. Republic of the Gambia
33. Republic of Guinea
34. Republic of Guinea-Bissau
35. State of Palestine
36. Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros
37. Republic of Kyrgyzstan
38. State of Qatar
39. Republic of Kazakhstan
40. Republic of Cameroon
41. State of Kuwait
42. Republic of Lebanon
43. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.
44. Republic of Maldives
45. Republic of Mali
46. Malaysia
47. Arab Republic of Egypt
48. Kingdom of Morocco
49. Islamic Republic of Mauritania
50. Republic of Mozambique
51. Republic of Niger
52. Federal Republic of Nigeria
53. Republic of Yemen

(B)- Also attended as observers:

STATES

- Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

MUSLIM COMMUNITIES:

- Turkish Muslim Community of Kibris.

- Moro National Liberation Front.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

- United Nations.
- Non-Aligned Movement.
- League of Arab States.
- Organisation of African Unity.
- Economic Cooperation Organisation.

(C) Also attended the following Subsidiary Organs:

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Ankara.
- Research Centre on Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul.
- Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhaka.
- Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade, Casablanca.
- Islamic Fiqh Academy, Jeddah.
- International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage, Istanbul.
- Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund, Jeddah.
- Islamic University of Niger, Niamey.
- Islamic University of Uganda, Kampala.

(D) Also attended the Conference the following specialised institutions of the OIC:

- Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah.
- Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), Rabat.
- International Islamic News Agency (IINA), Jeddah.
- Islamic States Broadcasting Organisation (ISBO), Jeddah.

(E) Also attended the Conference the following affiliated institutions to the OIC:

- Sports Federation of Islamic Solidarity Games, Riyadh.
- Organisation of the Islamic Capitals and Cities, Makkah Al-Mukarramah.
- Islamic Committee of the International Crescent, Benghazi.
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Karachi.
- Islamic Shipowners Association, Jeddah.
- World Federation of Arab Islamic International Schools, Riyadh.
- International Association of Islamic Banks, Cairo.

(F) The following Islamic Foundations and Societies:

- Muslim World League, Makkah Al-Mukarramah.
- World Islamic Call Society, Tripoli.
- World Muslim Congress, Karachi.
- International Islamic Council for Da'wa and Relief, Cairo.
- International Islamic Charitable Foundation, Kuwait.
- Islamic Council of Europe.

II. GUESTS:

- Republic of Croatia.
- Republic of Slovenia.
- Republic of Macedonia.
- Kosovo
- Sanjak
- Gulf Cooperation Council of Arab States
- Arab Maghrib Union.
- U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).
- U.N. Education, Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- UN Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.
- U.N. Development Programme (UNDP).
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).
- International Islamic University of Malaysia.
- International Islamic Relief Organisation.
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- Hashemite Jordanian Charitable Organisation.
- True Representatives of the Kashmiri People.

- Women's Solidarity Association of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Islamic Countries Women Sports Solidarity Council.

3. His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, opened the Twenty-fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers by delivering an address in which he analyzed the delicate international situation in which this Conference is being held. He also reviewed the major international issues included on the agenda and particularly the situation in the Middle East. In this respect, His Highness stated that the peace process in the region constitutes the major concern of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in view of the threat posed by the stalling of the peace process to international security and stability. His Highness reaffirmed the commitment of his country to peace as a strategic option. His Highness also raised the phenomenon of international terrorism and the direct threat it poses towards the rights of man to live, to freedom and to security. In this respect, he stressed the need to adjust the code of conduct towards combating international terrorism and to draw up an international agreement to fight terrorism. His Highness emphasized the economic importance of Islamic solidarity and the need to maintain it among the priorities of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. He expressed concern at the wars, conflicts and ethnic cleansing going on in several areas of the globe and the support of the State of Qatar to the efforts of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the other international organisations to make peace prevail in these areas. At the end of his address, His Highness stressed the need to reform the Organisation of Islamic Conference and to reorganize its structures and commended the efforts of the Secretary General in this regard.

4. The Conference decided to adopt the inaugural address of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, as an official working document.

5. Then His Excellency Mr. Lamine Kamara, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency Mr. Mustapha Othman Ismael, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Sudan, His Excellency Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in turn, took the floor on behalf of the African, Arab and Asian groups, respectively to express their gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and to the Qatari Government and people for the generous hospitality and warm welcome and all the facilities extended to the participating delegations.

6. His Excellency President Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine, took the floor to give an account of the serious crisis through which the peace process is going and the current stalling it is undergoing at all levels in the area due to the intransigent positions and policies adopted by the present Israeli government and to its failure to comply with the accords signed with the Palestinians. He also denounced the measures and practices of the government of Israel in the form of economic stifling, the persistent blockade and sealing off, the confiscation of lands to establish settlements on them, as well as the refusal to release the prisoners and detainees and to open the airport, harbour and the safe corridor. He also indicated the fierce and relentless campaign targeting the Holy City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif aimed at its complete judaization, obliterating its religious, historical and cultural heritage and effacing its Arab, Islamic and Christian identity. He called on the Islamic Ummah to join forces and to step up their efforts in order to save Al-Quds Al-Sharif from the clutches of Israeli occupation.

7. Then, His Excellency Dr. Kamal Karrazi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in his capacity as representative of His Excellency President Sayed Mohamed Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, read out a message from His Excellency the President to the Conference. His Excellency started his address by recalling the Tehran Declaration and the Tehran Vision Statement, stressing the need to promote further dialogue to consolidate cooperation and build confidence among Member States. H.E. indicated that it was incumbent upon the Islamic Ummah, at the dawn of the third millennium, to draw up a strategy on sound and practical basis that would enlist the approval of all, and lay emphasis on diversity, pluralism, tolerance and dialogue, as well as international values such as respect for sovereignty, refraining from the use of force, exercising restraint in the settlement of conflicts and disputes, in addition to fighting terrorism and giving support to the struggles of peoples subjected to colonialism, and foreign domination and occupation. H.E. commended the cooperation and coordination of H.E. the OIC Secretary General, as well as Member States with the Islamic Republic of Iran in its capacity as Chairman of the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference. He indicated that Islamic leaders have adopted historic resolutions that must be followed up and implemented, thus helping to build confidence and consolidate solidarity among Muslims, reviewed a number of practical measures currently being studied and aimed at implementing those resolutions in the political, economic and cultural fields, and stressed the need to provide the OIC with sufficient working means to enable it to improve its performance.

8. Then, His Excellency Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary General of the OIC, delivered an address, in which he expressed consideration and respect to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. H.E. affirmed that the OIC will continue providing unstinted support to the question of Palestine and Al Quds Al Sharif, the prime cause of Muslims. He stated that the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region demands Israel's compliance with the resolutions of the international community and with the bases on which the peace process was started and the resumption of negotiations with Syria and Lebanon at the point where they were interrupted. He also reviewed developments in all the political issues of concern to the Islamic arena, and stressed the need to achieve major improvement in economic relations between Member States and to provide the necessary conditions to implement the Cultural Strategy. He stressed the importance of introducing structural reforms in the General Secretariat, and expressed the hope that Member States will approve a budget that will cover the needs of the OIC.

9. His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Nugroho Wisnumurti, read out the message of His Excellency Ali Alatas, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia, Chairman of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. He emphasized the importance of strengthening South-South economic cooperation and among Member States of the OIC including, the necessity of crystallizing the idea of Islamic complementarity and the establishment of a Common Islamic Market. He underscored the adverse effects of the Globalization on the economies of some developing countries.

10. The Conference heard the addresses delivered by His Excellency Lakhdar Ibrahim, Representative of the UN Secretary-General, His Excellency Dr. Esmet Abdel Magid, Secretary General of the Arab League, His Excellency Ambassador Jaime Jabron Duarte, Representative of the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement, and His Excellency Ambassador Shaabane El Fitouri Ghashut, Representative of the Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity.

11. The Conference, afterwards, unanimously elected His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabor Al-Thani, Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, as Chairman of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

12. Then, the Conference unanimously elected the Foreign Ministers of Burkina Faso, the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the State of Palestine as Vice-Chairmen and representative of the Republic of Indonesia as Rapporteur General.

13. Upon his election as Chairman of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani, Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, delivered an address in which he welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation and gratitude His Excellency Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, for his efforts and cooperation to

strengthen the Organisation and enhance the common goals of the Islamic Ummah. He indicated that the struggle between the countries of the world commands more consultations on the ways and means to face up to the challenges confronting the Islamic Ummah, in other words, that the new international situation is dealt with realism and objectivity. He reiterated the importance of preparing the Ummah to enter the Twenty-first Century, the beginning of which will coincide with the holding of the Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Doha.

14. The Conference decided that the motto of the present session shall be: "for a better future for the peoples of the Islamic Ummah".

15. The Conference approved the report of the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials.

16. The Conference adopted the draft agenda prepared by the Meeting of Senior Officials.

17. The Conference took note with appreciation of the report submitted by the Chairman of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

18. The Conference took note with appreciation of the reports submitted by the Secretary General on the items included in the agenda, on the activities undertaken by the General Secretariat during the period between the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

19. The Conference listened, during the general debate, to the interventions of Their Excellencies the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegations who laid emphasis on the issues of concern to the Islamic world and reviewed the questions raised on international arena.

20. The Conference listened with fraternal sentiments to the address of Mr. Taner Etkin who presented the just cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriot people.

21. The Conference listened to the presentation of His Excellency Professor Nur Missuari, Chairman of the Moro National Front on the implementation of the agreement concluded between the Front and the Government of the Philippines.

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS:

Question of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Palestine and the Arab Israeli Conflict:

27. The Conference called on the Member States to organise symposia, activities and festivals on the 15th of May to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Palestinian tragedy by sensitizing Islamic peoples and world public opinion to, and increasing awareness of the calamities and displacement suffered by the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli occupation, oppression and terrorism.

28. The Conference stressed that the question of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif is the foremost Islamic cause. It expressed its full solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization in its just struggle to achieve the legitimate inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, to return to their homeland and to establish their independent state in their national territories, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. It called on Member States to undertake action within the international community to bring Israel to put an end to its occupation of, and withdraw its troops from, all Arab and Palestinian territories, and first of foremost Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in order to enable the Palestinian people to achieve and freely exercise all their rights and in order that peace and stability may prevail in the whole region.

29. The Conference stressed that Al-Quds Al-Sharif is an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and that what applies to the rest of Palestinian territories applies to it, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly. The Conference called for action to put an end to the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif aimed at modifying the geographical and demographic situation and desecrating the holy Islamic and Christian places there with a view to judaizing the Holy City. It called for the need to exert maximum effort in order to restore the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to Palestinian sovereignty, as capital of State of Palestine, for ensuring peace and security in the region.

30. The Conference also called on the international community to avoid any relations with Israeli occupation authorities which might be interpreted by the latter, in any way, as an implicit recognition of the "fait accompli" imposed by Israel when it declared the city of Al-Quds its capital. It stressed that all legal, administrative, and settlement measures and procedures aimed at modifying the legal status of the Holy city is null and void and contravene international treaties, charters and norms and contrary to the agreements signed by the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The Conference called on the international community, especially the two co-sponsors of the Peace Conference, to prompt Israel not to make any geographical or demographic transformation in the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif during the transitional period, to refrain from any action that might affect the outcome of the negotiations on the final status of the City, and to abide by the relevant international resolutions, especially those issued by the Tenth Extraordinary Session of the General Assembly on the halting of the Jewish settlement of Djebel Abu Ghoneim and of all other settlements and to induce Israel also to lift the blockade on the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to safeguard freedom of worship in it, and to cease destroying houses, withdrawing the identity cards of the Palestinian citizens and emptying the city of its Arab citizens.

31. The Conference affirmed its full support of the peace process in the Middle East and its commitment to its foundations. The Conference called for Israel to respect and implement its commitments, pledges, and agreements concluded through this process and in accordance with the principles based on Madrid Conference pursuant to UN resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 475, and the land-for-peace formula. All these instruments provide for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the occupied Syrian Golan up to the front line of 4 June 1967, the occupied Southern Lebanon and Western Bekaa and for the realization of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. It rejected Israel's attempts at bypassing the requirements of the transitional period and jump directly to negotiations on the final status. It called for the faithful implementation of all the remaining articles in the agreements on the transitional period concluded between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel to end Israeli occupation and build Palestinian national institutions on the soil of Palestine.

32. The Conference underlined that Israel's violation of the principles and foundations of the peace process, reneging on the commitments, pledges, and agreements concluded within that framework, and procrastination and evasion at the implementation level, have seriously undermined the peace process. The Conference held Israel wholly responsible for this state of affairs.

33. The Conference called on the Islamic States which had taken steps toward establishing relations with Israel within the framework of the peace process, to reconsider such relations by closing missions and bureau until Israel completes its withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their own independent state on their rational territory, Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

34. The Conference urged the international community, particularly the co-sponsors of the peace process, to pressure Israel to comply with the resolutions of international legality and to end its settlement policy. It called on the Security Council to revive the International Committee for supervising and monitoring the ban on settlements in Al-Quds and the other occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. It also urged the international community and all states providing economic and financial assistance to Israel to stop such assistance which Israel uses to carry out its colonization scheme in the occupied Arab territories, in the occupied Palestine and the occupied Syrian Golan.

35. The Conference called for action by the United Nations and other international Organisations to force Israel to release the detainees, return the deportees, and put an end to the collective punishments, as well as to the operations of confiscation of land and properties and demolition of houses, and to desist from any acts endangering life and environment in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif. It emphasized the need to convene the meeting of the high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of war and to take the necessary enforcement measures for implementing this Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

36. The Conference requested the international community and the UN Security Council to force Israel to comply with UN resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 487 (1981) and to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and implement the resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

37. The Conference commended the efforts made by the Al-Quds Committee under the Chairmanship of His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco, and expressed satisfaction at the entry into operation of Bait-ul-Mal Al-Quds.

38. The Conference commended the resistance of the Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan against occupation and strongly condemned Israel for not complying with Security Council resolution 497 (1981). It stressed that Israel's decision to impose its laws, its sovereignty and its administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is illegal, null and void and without legal effect whatsoever. It condemned Israel for continuing to alter the legal and demographic status and the institutional structure of the occupied Syrian Golan. It reaffirmed the applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to the occupied Syrian Golan and called for Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967.

39. The Conference strongly condemned Israel for its continuing occupation of parts of Southern Lebanon and Western Bekaa and urged the international community to ensure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 (1978) stipulating Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Lebanese territories to the internationally recognized borders. It called on the international community to take all measures to compel Israel to immediately free all the prisoners and the Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons and in the camps controlled by the forces allied to Israel and to endeavour to put an end to Israel's aggression and inhuman practices against the defenseless inhabitants in the Lebanese territories. It reiterated its support to the efforts of the State of Lebanon to establish its sovereignty on its entire territory including the area occupied by Israel in Southern Lebanon and Western Bekaa.

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INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION:

121. The Conference hailed the progress made so far in the making of the documentary film on Al-Quds Al-Sharif. It underlined the necessity for the Member States to reactivate and support the activities of the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization (ISBO), so they can attain their objectives in the service of Islamic information.

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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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136. The Conference invited all concerned bodies to expedite the extension of the necessary assistance to help the Palestinian people to establish their national economy, consolidation of their national institutions and to enable them to establish their independent State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

147. The Conference reaffirmed its support of the declaration of the Middle East, Africa, and the Indian Ocean regions as nuclear weapon free zones and condemned Israel's refusal to sign the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its burying dangerous poisonous waste in the occupied Palestinian territories and disposal off the Lebanese coasts. It condemned the policies of aggression practised by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories and the occupied Syrian Golan and the Western Bekaa. It condemned its confiscation of lands, burning of woods, diversion of irrigation water, and seizure of Palestinian water resources.

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