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COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993

I. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

1. The mandate of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for 1993 is contained in General Assembly resolutions 47/64 A and B of 11 December 1992, the relevant parts of which are paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of resolution 47/64 A, and paragraph 2 of resolution 47/64 B.
2. In paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 47/64 A, the General Assembly endorsed the Committee's recommendations and requested it to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine, as well as the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate.
3. In paragraph 4 of the same resolution, the Assembly authorized the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the implementation of its recommendations, including representation at conferences and meetings and the sending of delegations, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate, to give special emphasis to the need to mobilize public opinion in Europe and North America, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session and thereafter.
4. In paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their contribution towards heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and creating a more favourable atmosphere for the full implementation of the Committee's recommendations, and to take the necessary steps to expand its contacts with those organizations.
5. Resolution 47/64 B deals with the work programme of the Division for Palestinian Rights. In paragraph 2, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Division with the necessary resources, to strengthen its programme of research, studies and publications through the establishment of an adequately staffed and equipped computer-based information system on the question of Palestine, and to ensure that it continues to discharge the tasks detailed in the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance.
6. Resolution 47/64 C deals with the programme of work of the Department of Public Information. In paragraph 2, the Assembly requested the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme on the question of Palestine for the remainder of the biennium 1992-1993, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America.

II. PRIORITY ISSUES IN THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993

7. In the recommendations contained in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the Committee recalled that the Peace Conference on the Middle East convened under the co-sponsorship of the United States of America and the former Soviet Union had the support of all the parties and is based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and the principle of land for peace. The Committee expressed its earnest hope that this process would bring about a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement to the question of Palestine based on internationally recognized principles and United Nations resolutions. The Committee stressed the essential need for an active role of the United Nations, the Security Council and the Secretary-General, for a successful outcome of the peace process. The Committee reaffirmed that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility with respect to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy.
8. The Committee also recalled that an international consensus had been reached over the years on the essential principles for the achievement of comprehensive peace. That consensus has been reaffirmed once again by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/64 D of 11 December 1992.
9. The Committee further stated that pending progress towards a political settlement, it is of the utmost urgency that all necessary measures be taken to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in accordance with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and numerous resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Committee called on the High Contracting Parties to the Convention and the United Nations system as a whole to take action to ensure that Israel abides by its obligations as the occupying Power, in accordance with Security Council resolution 681 (1990). In this regard, the Committee drew attention to the relevant recommendations made by the participants in the 1992 North American Seminar on the theme "Enforcing the Fourth Geneva Convention for ensuring the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem".

10. In its report, the Committee also reaffirmed that the United Nations has a duty and responsibility to render all assistance necessary to promote the social and economic development of the occupied Palestinian territory in preparation for the full exercise of national sovereignty, and reiterated its call upon the United Nations system and the international community as a whole to sustain and increase their assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Mindful of the importance of this issue and of the need to increase its own efforts to promote international action, the Committee stated that it had decided to devote its 1993 European Seminar to the question of assistance to the Palestinian people, in accordance with the proposal made by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1992/58.

11. Since submitting its report to the General Assembly, the Committee has expressed its condemnation of the deportation to southern Lebanon, on 17 December 1992, of over 400 Palestinian civilians by the Government of Israel, and has called upon the Security Council to take all necessary measures, including the application of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, to bring about the implementation of Security Council resolution 799 (1992).

12. In the light of the above, the Committee has decided to give priority to the following issues in its activities during 1993:

(a) The urgency of promoting measures by the Security Council, the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention (and all other parties concerned, to ensure the full implementation of Security Council resolution 799 (1992);

(b) The imperative need to end human rights violations and ensure the safety and international protection of Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 681 (1990);

(c) The adverse impact of Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land and settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, for the achievement of Palestinian rights and of a just settlement of the question of Palestine, and the urgent need to take measures in this regard;

(d) The deteriorating economic situation of the Palestinian people and the need for international assistance to promote the independent social and economic development of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in preparation for the full exercise of national sovereignty in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;

(e) The promotion of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine, including the convening, at a certain stage, of an international peace conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/74 D of 11 December 1992.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

A. Action by the Committee

13. The Committee intends to continue to do everything possible to strengthen its role in monitoring the situation of Palestinians under occupation and promoting the adoption of concrete measures by the Security Council and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention. In accordance with past practice and in keeping with paragraph 3 of resolution 47/64 A, the Committee will continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights, and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate. The Committee Chairman, through his letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council on behalf of the Committee will continue to draw attention to urgent developments affecting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

14. The Committee will once again extend an invitation to all Governments to participate in its work and in the events organized under its auspices. The Committee requests its Chairman, as in the past, to address a letter to the Secretary-General requesting him to inform all States of the Committee's concerns and to convey the Committee's invitation to them to participate in and contribute to its work. The Committee also will continue to hold consultations with interested representatives of member States in this regard.

15. The Committee will also continue to strengthen its role further as the United Nations organ primarily responsible for the promotion of the exercise of Palestinian rights in accordance with international instruments and United Nations resolutions. In particular, the Committee will continue to follow up on political developments and on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory by maintaining ongoing contacts with the Secretary-General, his special representative on the Middle East, and relevant officials in the United Nations system, with the Security Council and other relevant United Nations organs and with government representatives as appropriate.

16. In accordance with its mandate, the Committee will continue its programme of regional seminars and NGO symposia and an international NGO meeting, as well as special meetings of the Committee on specific issues. The Committee will focus on the priority issues mentioned above in order to exert a direct and effective influence on the course of action by Governments,

inter-governmental and other bodies in that regard. The Committee will continue to review its experience in carrying out its programme of work in order to ensure maximum participation, effectiveness and impact.

B. Seminars

17. Budgetary provision has been made for seminars to be held in 1993 in the following regions: Europe, North America, Latin America and Africa.

18. As already decided by the Committee, the European Seminar will be devoted to the theme of "Assistance to the Palestinian people". It is envisaged that this seminar will be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 26 to 30 April 1993.

19. In accordance with established practice, the North American Seminar will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York immediately preceding the North American NGO Symposium, on 28 and 29 June 1993.

20. With regard to the African Seminar, the Committee gratefully takes note of the offer of the Government of Senegal to provide the venue for this Seminar at Dakar and decides to hold it together with the African NGO Symposium, at a date to be decided.

21. The venue and date for the Latin American Seminar remain to be decided.

C. Regional symposia and international meeting of NGOs

22. Budgetary provision has been made for the holding in 1993 of NGO Symposia in North America, Europe, Latin America and Africa, and for an International NGO Meeting, as well as for preparatory meetings for the North American Symposium and the International Meeting.

23. The preparatory meeting for the North American NGO Symposium was held at New York on 25 and 26 January, and proposed a better organizational format for NGO work, as well as a provisional programme for the symposium, which is scheduled to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 30 June to 2 July 1993.

24. The preparatory meeting for the International NGO Meeting will be held at Geneva, on 5 and 6 April. In accordance with established practice and existing budgetary provision, the European NGO Symposium and the International NGO Meeting will be held consecutively at either Geneva, or Vienna, on 23 and 24 August and from 25 to 27 August, respectively.

25. As mentioned above, the African NGO Symposium will be held at Dakar in conjunction with the African Seminar, at a date to be decided.

26. The venue and date for the Latin American NGO Symposium, which would be held jointly with the Latin American Seminar, remain to be decided.

D. Research, monitoring and publications, including UNISPAL

27. The programme of research, monitoring, and publications of the Division for Palestinian Rights will continue to include the preparation of the following:

- (a) Monthly bulletins covering action by the Committee, other United Nations organs and agencies, as well as inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the question of Palestine;
- (b) Reports of regional seminars, regional NGO symposia and the International NGO Meeting;
- (c) Special bulletin on the commemoration in 1992 of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People;
- (d) Compilation of relevant resolutions, decisions and statements adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council in 1992;
- (e) Monthly and bimonthly monitoring reports on developments relating to the question of Palestine, as reflected in the Arabic, English and Hebrew press for the use of the Committee.

28. The Division will also continue to update periodically its information notes on the work of the Committee and the Division, on NGO activities on the question of Palestine, and on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

29. The Division will continue to prepare its monthly publication entitled "Approaches towards the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of Palestine".

30. In the course of the year, the Division will continue the work of updating and preparing studies, carry out research and prepare monitoring material, as well as other publications. A publication issued in 1979 on the observance of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory is being updated.

31. During 1993, in order to strengthen its programme of research, studies, monitoring, and publications, the Division, in cooperation with the relevant services in the Secretariat, will continue its work on the establishment of a computer-based information system on the question of Palestine (UNISPAL), as requested in General Assembly resolution 47/64 B of 11 December 1992. In an effort to make UNISPAL operational this year, the Division will endeavour to carry out two phases of the exercise. First, the preparatory phase, during which information material will be compiled and prepared for subsequent storage and use in the system, the requisite hardware and software will be acquired and installed, and the technical support staff will be recruited or trained. Second, the development and initial implementation phase, during which system analysis, design and development will take place. It is expected that concurrently users in the Division will undergo the necessary training to be able to work with UNISPAL.

E. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

32. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People will be observed on Monday, 29 November 1993. It is envisaged that the observance will take place at Headquarters, at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna, and elsewhere in accordance with established practice.

33. The Committee decides, in cooperation with the Office of the Permanent Observer of Palestine, to prepare a special programme for the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in 1993, including an exhibit to be displayed at United Nations Headquarters during the week of Solidarity Day, as well as the possibility of hosting a reception, and organizing a cultural event.

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