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Letter dated 4 May 1984 from the Chairman of the Committee on the
Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
addressed to the Secretary-General

As Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to convey the Committee's appreciation for the contacts which, in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, you have initiated on convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The United Nations has had to deal with the question of Palestine since 1947 and, in the intervening period, has adopted several hundred resolutions in direct response to actions taken by the protagonists on the spot.

The support given to the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is substantively significant. The recommendations were formulated free from the pressure of events and, on the basis of consensus, they respected all previous decisions of the United Nations on the issue but went further by prescribing a comprehensive formula for a peaceful and fair solution.

These recommendations have yet to be acted upon, for a variety of reasons, mainly because the protagonists themselves have adhered to positions which make it difficult to reach agreement on fundamental principles. Nevertheless, the recommendations have now gained quasi-universal acceptance, especially as recently amplified by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine held last year. They establish a solid foundation for a peaceful and legally-founded solution to the currently unacceptable plight of the Palestinian people, and a positive contribution towards the easing of the complex Arab-Israeli crisis.

Clearly, a new, resolute approach to the problem is necessary. It is imperative that action should be taken to create a favourable momentum that will lead to a peaceful solution. That is the purpose of the Conference called for in General Assembly resolution 38/58 C. The Committee believes that the Conference will mark an important and overdue step forward, and urges the co-operation of all concerned, so as to ensure a positive outcome in the common interest.

I would be grateful if the text of this letter were circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Massamba SARRE
Chairman of the Committee on the
Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People

* A/39/50.