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114, 116, 117 and 126
/...

Letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Ministerial Declaration adopted on the occasion of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2002 (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77, I would highly appreciate it if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 21 (a) and (c), 36, 41 (a), 42, 43, 44, 52, 79, 84, 86 (a) and (d), 87 (a) and (f), 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 107 (b), 111, 112, 114, 116, 117 and 126.

(Signed) Milos Alcalay
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Venezuela to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77

Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, guided by the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and by full respect for the principles of international law, convened at the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2002, adopted the following declaration:

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VII. Situation in Palestine and the Middle East

26. We remain gravely concerned over the tragic and dangerous situation in the occupied Palestine territory, including Jerusalem, which has resulted in the grave deterioration of the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people, and has negatively affected stability and development in the region as a whole. We call for the immediate and complete cessation and end to settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan an end to the recent Israeli occupation and siege of Palestinian cities, towns and villages, which are in violation of international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, and all forms of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, as well as the return to the negotiation table. We also call for the immediate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, and from all the other Arab occupied territories. We reaffirm our support to the Palestinian people in their effort to achieve their inalienable rights, including their right to establish an independent state on their national soil, including Jerusalem. We also call for an end to Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity.

27. We reaffirm our support for the Middle East peace process started in Madrid in 1991, and aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, in accordance with Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#), [338 \(1973\)](#) and [425 \(1978\)](#) and the principle of land for peace. In this context, we support the peace initiative adopted by the Arab Summit in Beirut in March 2002.

