



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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1. Action taken by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People acting as the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine

On 16 June 1983 the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine discussed documentation for the Conference, the selection of non-governmental organizations and eminent persons to be invited to participate in the Conference. At a subsequent meeting of the Preparatory Committee on 20 June 1983 it was decided to hold the Conference at Geneva from 29 August to 7 September 1983,

2. Regional preparatory meetings for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine
 - a) West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine

The Third Regional Preparatory Meeting took place at the Hotel Continental in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, from 25 to 28 April 1983. Delegations of all States of the West Asian region and the Palestine Liberation Organization participated in the meeting. In addition FAO, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, ECWA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNIDO as well as a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended it. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting had as its main theme "Economic, Civic, Social and cultural conditions of Palestinians". The agenda contained the following substantive items:

1. General review of the economic, civil, social and cultural condition of Palestinians;
2. Prospects for the future;
3. Status of Jerusalem;
4. Recommendations for action;

The meeting had before it several papers, prepared and introduced by consultants, dealing with various aspects of the agenda items.

At the opening session the meeting heard statements by Mrs. Lucille Mair, Secretary-General of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, His Highness Shaikh Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, Mr. Zehdi Labib Terzi, representative of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Dr. Mohamed S. Al-Attar, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, Mr. Shafiq Al-Hout, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization and H.E. Rashid Abdulla, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates.

At the same session the meeting elected its bureau consisting of:

- H.E. Rashid Abdulla of the United Arab Emirates, Chairman,
- Mr. Shafiq Al Hout, Palestine Liberation Organization, H.E. Mohamad Al-Khawi of Yemen as Vice-Chairmen, and
- H.E. Wissam Al-Zahawia of Iraq as Rapporteur.

After extensive consideration of the various agenda items, the meeting unanimously adopted its recommendations including two special resolutions on Lebanon and the Iraq-Iran war, the text of which is reproduced below. The meeting also unanimously adopted its report.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Recommendations for action adopted by the West Asian Regional
Preparatory Meeting held at Sharjah, United Arab Emirates,

25-28 April 1983

(A/CONF.114/PC/12)

I. Decisions and recommendations of the Meeting

1. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting held at Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, from 25 to 29 April 1983, viewing the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with grave concern is convinced that the unprecedented urgency of the situation makes an early solution to the question of Palestine imperative. The West Asian States therefore welcome the International Conference on the Question of Palestine to be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 16 to 27 August 1983, whose objectives and timeliness are underscored by the current situation. The West Asian States, geographically and historically the most closely affected by the question of Palestine and which they perceive as the core of the conflict in the Middle East, are agreed that no effort should be spared in striving for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Meeting, therefore, recognizes:

(a) The Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination in Palestine, including the right to establish an independent and sovereign State, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and as repeatedly reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolutions, most recently its resolutions ES-7/2 of 29 July 1980 and 37/86 D and E of 10 and 20 December 1982 respectively;

(b) The inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property in Palestine, from which they have been displaced and uprooted, and the right to compensation for those choosing not to do so;

(c) That action by the Security Council on the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/20 of 24 November 1976 and subsequently, is long overdue.

(d) That the attainment of the exercise of these inalienable rights is the conditio sine qua non for a just solution of the question of Palestine and for a lasting peace in the Middle East;

(e) That the Palestine Liberation Organization, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has the right to participate on an equal footing in all international conferences held by the United Nations, in all the organs and agencies belonging to the United Nations and in all efforts undertaken by the Organization in conformity with its relevant resolutions;

(f) That the continued occupation by Israel of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza and of the other Arab territories, and its refusal to apply the provisions of the Hague regulations of 1907, are illegal and contrary to the provisions of international law;

(g) The imperative need for total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the territories that it is occupying in the West Bank and Gaza and from the other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, with a view to the achievement of a comprehensive and just solution to the conflict in the Middle East;

(h) The legitimacy of the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization against foreign domination and alien subjugation by all available means, including armed struggle, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/14 of 7 November 1977.

2. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, considering all aspects of the question of Palestine and in particular the long struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their national rights, including the right to establish an independent State in Palestine, deems action on this question to be a matter of the utmost urgency and therefore emphatically recommends that the international community should:

(a) Be alert to the great importance of the time factor in solving the question of Palestine;

(b) Intensify efforts, individually and collectively, for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital and, to this end, use all available means to secure the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all territories occupied by it since 1967, including Jerusalem, as an indispensable step towards the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East;

(c) Urge States which have not recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people to accord such recognition;

(d) Continue to adhere to all the resolutions of the United Nations and its specialized agencies which reject Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and its declaration of that city as its capital;

(e) Consider the Arab peace plan adopted at the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference held at Fez, Morocco, on 9 September 1982 as a constructive contribution to the search for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict and as being in conformity with the resolutions of the United Nations aimed at settling the question of Palestine;

(f) Consider the position adopted by the Palestine National Council at its meeting in Algiers, reiterating its adherence to the principles of the United Nations, to its Charter and to its resolutions affirming the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, as a constructive contribution to the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East;

(g) Consider the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which were endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-first session and at subsequent sessions and which are, moreover, consistent with efforts to obtain peace and a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine as a sound basis on which to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in Palestine;

(h) Take into consideration, with appreciation, the decisions of the Organization of African Unity, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the question of Palestine;

(i) Encourage Western European and North American States, through bilateral and multilateral contacts, to adopt the position outlined in the statement of the Council of Europe of 22 March 1983, which considered the Arab peace plan and the results of the work of the Palestine National Council as a positive step towards the establishment of peace in the Middle East;

(j) Call upon States and regional economic organizations which maintain economic relations with Israel to review those relations and the agreements governing them in the light of Israeli statements to the effect that the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, constitute an integral part of Israel;

(k) Seek to prevent Zionist activity aimed at encouraging the migration of Jews from their countries of origin to the occupied Arab territories and their establishment in the illegal colonial settlements in those territories;

(l) Undertake joint Islamic, Christian and non-Zionist Jewish efforts to protect the Holy Places and to put an end to their desecration by Israel;

(m) Appeal to non-governmental organizations and professional and popular associations to intensify their efforts to support the rights of the Palestinian people in every possible way;

(n) Appeal to the world press, to recognized associations of journalists and writers and to other mass media to increase their dissemination of factual information on the question of Palestine.

3. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, viewing with grave concern the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza, where Israel is more than ever before continuing to violate the Palestinians' fundamental rights by expropriating and annexing their land, establishing colonial settlements thereon and taking possession of their water resources, recommends that the States Members of the United Nations should:

(a) Call upon the Security Council to adopt and ensure the speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

(b) Urge the Security Council to impose military and economic sanctions on Israel, in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to inducing it to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories;

(c) Call upon the Security Council to consider the reports of the Commission established under resolution 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, which examined the situation concerning colonial settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, with a view to the implementation of its recommendations; call, likewise, upon the Security Council to re-activate the above-mentioned Commission to monitor the ongoing establishment and expansion of colonial settlements and their implications for the Palestinian people's access to their natural resources and to take the necessary steps to end Israel's colonial settlement policy and its use of force against the population of the Palestinian and Arab territories;

(d) Appeal to the Security Council to initiate action to compel Israel to lift its restrictions on water use and well drilling by Palestinian farmers and to terminate its diversion of West Bank water resources into the Israeli water grid system;

(e) Strive for the adoption of international measures to compel Israel to implement in the West Bank and Gaza the provisions of the Hague regulations of 1907 concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, in the light of Security Council resolution 465 (1980);

(f) Call upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and pending the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, to take effective measures to guarantee the safety and security and the legal and human rights of the Palestinian refugees in the occupied territories;

(g) Emphasize the need for the Agency to continue to provide its services to the Palestinians without any decrease or diminution;

(h) Take the necessary steps to invalidate and counter the measures and practices applied by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, including the expropriation and annexation of land and property and the alteration of the demographic, geographic and historical features therein.

4. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, fully aware of the present adverse social, economic and cultural conditions of the Palestinian people, particularly in the aftermath of the Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon, and being desirous of achieving immediate solutions to their problems, further urges the United Nations and the appropriate organs in the United Nations system to:

(a) Initiate a comprehensive census of the Palestinian people as an additional and reliable means of identifying their particular needs for housing, health, education, employment, etc.;

(b) Examine and promote ways and means to enable the Palestinian people to exercise sovereignty over their national resources, particularly their water resources, in a manner conducive to their development and so as to ensure the supply of adequate quantities of water through the drilling of new water wells, without any Israeli interference, and to prevent Israel from exploiting such wells for its own purposes and wasting the water and other resources of the occupied territories;

(c) Establish as a matter of urgency adequate, effective, and equitably distributed health facilities incorporating supportive, preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative services which will enable the Palestinians living in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the victims of Israeli aggression against Lebanon during 1982, to lead a socially and economically productive life;

(d) Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to set up within UNCTAD a special economic unit to monitor and investigate the policies of the Israeli occupation authorities hampering the economic development of the occupied Palestinian territories, in particular the agricultural sector;

(e) Co-operate, with assistance from the United Nations Environment Programme, in the promotion and development of a healthy environment, with particular emphasis on safe water supplies, waste disposal, prevention of air pollution and control of vectors causing disease to man and animal;

(f) Request international agencies and organizations to report to the United Nations General Assembly, individually or jointly, on their activities relating to the social, economic and cultural needs of the Palestinian people;

(g) Urge the United Nations Development Programme to convene inter-agency meetings and to establish a task-force under the aegis of UNDP, to assess the progress and effectiveness of technical co-operation activities that have taken

place since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 33/147 and to consider the possibility of developing and expanding them;

(h) Support the development and expansion of Palestinian educational and research institutions at all levels, particularly in the occupied territories, through the provision of research grants for Palestinians, the allocation of funds to support productive educational projects and the granting of scholarships to train Palestinian manpower and, most important, join international educational institutions in protesting against the repeated closure of schools and universities, which constitutes a form of collective punishment; call upon UNESCO to reactivate its plan to establish a Palestinian Open University, in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, with a specific deadline for its implementation, in order to provide the Palestinians with specialized higher education in their areas of residence;

(i) Consider and develop ways and means to support the development and expansion of manufacturing industries and agricultural production conducive to the establishment of a diversified production system in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip capable of providing ample job opportunities in the local economy for the Palestinian labour force;

(j) Consider and develop ways and means to prevent Israel from dumping its products in the occupied territories and also to prevent it from restricting the right of the local business community to export to any destination and import from any source with which its members may wish to deal;

(k) Support the establishment of local financial and other economic institutions capable of mobilizing domestic resources and guiding their development; intensify efforts to create appropriate indigenous financial institutions in the occupied territories, so that remittances and savings of Palestinians can be devoted to indigenous Palestinian development and prevented from being absorbed into the Israeli financial system; and further, take measures to ensure that the remittances of Palestinians abroad and Palestinian export earnings do not serve to support the Israeli balance of payments;

(l) Consider appropriate policies and measures to protect the integrity of the Palestinian family under conditions of disruption, particularly in the light of the renewed dispersion resulting from the aggression against Lebanon;

(m) Expand and promote the administration of social services to meet the needs of displaced Palestinians;

(n) Endeavour to increase awareness by the international community of the economic and social burdens borne by the Palestinian people as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories, with special emphasis on the adverse effects of this occupation on the economic development of the West Asian region as a whole. This effort should include the establishment of a United Nations inter-agency body with the task of collecting information and conducting investigations, which would receive funds-in-trust for the establishment of a data bank for that purpose and also for the purpose of meeting other requirements

relating to research into Palestinian issues and to the monitoring of the Palestinian development process and which would be empowered to publish its findings;

(o) Maintain and strengthen the resources of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the various United Nations bodies with regard to matters pertaining to the economic and social development of the Palestinians, for the purpose of strengthening and expanding their activities in this field;

(p) Study ways and means for the promotion of agricultural and industrial production in the occupied territories and for the achievement of economic integration between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by:

- (i) Providing loans and assistance for all Arab farmers in the occupied territories, in order to enable them to exploit their lands and increase crop productivity;
- (ii) Promoting and encouraging the establishment of consumer industries for which raw materials are available in the occupied territories, with a view to the creation of a kind of economic independence;
- (iii) Encouraging the external marketing of Arab agricultural produce from the occupied territories, with a view to the promotion of agriculture in the occupied homeland;

(q) Organize meetings, symposia and seminars on topics within their terms of reference and relating to specific problems of the Palestinian people.

5. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, convinced of the importance of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, to be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, from 16 to 27 August 1983:

(a) Welcomes the recommendations for action adopted by the African Regional Preparatory Meeting, held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 29 March to 1 April 1983, and by the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting, held at Managua, Nicaragua, from 12 to 15 April 1983;

(b) Urges all States Members of the United Nations to participate in the International Conference on the Question of Palestine at the ministerial level.

II. Resolutions

1. Resolution on Lebanon

The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting expresses its grave concern at the situation in Lebanon arising from Israel's aggression against that country and the continuation of that aggression.

The Meeting considers these Israeli actions in Lebanon as constituting a threat to international peace and security.

The Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting therefore requests the United Nations Security Council to take appropriate measures in order to compel Israel to implement the resolutions of the Security Council demanding the immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from Lebanese territory.

The Meeting also expresses its support and backing for the legitimate authority in Lebanon in its effort to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and restore its independence and its territorial and institutional integrity.

2. Resolution on the war between Iraq and Iran

The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, considering that the war between Iraq and Iran is dissipating the human energies and economic resources of the two countries and that its continuation is having adverse effects on the countries of the region and on the question of Palestine and the course of the Palestinian struggle to regain Palestinian rights, is convinced of the need for action to bring this war to an end without any delay, and calls upon the international community to redouble its efforts and to do its utmost to restore peace to the region.

b) Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine

The Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting was held at the Hilton Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 3 to 6 May 1983. Delegations from 40 Asian States, the Palestine Liberation Organization as the principal party to the Question of Palestine, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee as well as members of interested United Nations organs and offices and non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting. The delegation of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was headed by its Chairman, Ambassador Massamba Sarré of Senegal. The meeting's general theme was "The Question of Palestine in world politics", and it adopted the following substantive agenda:

1. The significance of the question of Palestine in world politics;
2. International endeavours toward a resolution of the question of Palestine;
3. Recommendation for action.

The documentation before the meeting included various reports dealing with the substance of the agenda item which were introduced by expert consultants.

At its first session the meeting unanimously elected the following bureau:

H.E. Ghazali Shafie, Foreign Affairs Minister of Malaysia as Chairman, the representatives of Indonesia, India, Fiji, Laos and the Palestine Liberation Organization as Vice-Chairmen, and the representative of Pakistan as Rapporteur.

At the same session the meeting was addressed by Mrs. Lucille Mair, Secretary-General of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, H.E. Massamba Sarré of Senegal, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, H.E. Mahathir Bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, Member of the Executive Committee and Head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, H.E. Habib Chatty, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and H.E. Gazali Shafie, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. After consideration of the agenda item the meeting drew up its recommendations for action and adopted them unanimously. The meeting also adopted the Kuala Lumpur Appeal and a special resolution on Lebanon.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Recommendations for action adopted by the Asian Regional Preparatory
Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, 3-6 May 1983
(A/CONF.114/PC/11)

I. The Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 3 to 7 May 1983, considering all aspects of the question of Palestine and recognizing that it is strategically central to a resolution of conflict in the Middle East, and that the current deterioration of the conditions in the West Bank and Gaza is dangerously aggravating this conflict, seeks the early and substantive participation by the international community for an urgent solution.

The Asian and Pacific States welcome the forthcoming International Conference on the Question of Palestine to be held at UNESCO headquarters at Paris from 16 to 27 August 1983 as a constructive and timely contribution in the quest for a just settlement of the question of Palestine. The Meeting, therefore, recognizes:

1. That the question of Palestine constitutes the core of the conflict in the Middle East;

2. That the Palestinian people continue to be deprived of their inalienable rights to self-determination including the right to an independent and sovereign State;

3. That the attainment of this fundamental right is the sine qua non for a just, durable and comprehensive solution of the question of Palestine and an enduring peace in the Middle East;

4. That no settlement of the conflict can be just and complete without the attainment of the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and uprooted. Equitable compensation should be paid to those choosing not to return;

5. The right of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to participate on an equal footing in all endeavours, deliberations, negotiations and conferences on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, within and outside the framework of the United Nations, and in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions;

6. The legitimacy of the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization against foreign domination and alien subjugation by all available means, including armed struggle, as recognized by United Nations General Assembly resolution 3070 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973 and United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/14 of 7 November 1977;

7. The fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force;

8. The imperative necessity for the total and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Jerusalem and all Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 for a just, durable and comprehensive solution to the conflict in the Middle East, and as being indispensable to the maintenance of peace and security in that region;

4. Adhere to all the resolutions of the United Nations and its specialized agencies on the Holy City of Jerusalem, including those which reject Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and its declaration of that city as its capital;

5. Undertake measures to alleviate the economic and social burdens borne by the Palestinian people as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of their territories;

6. Seek and develop ways and means to enable the Palestinian people to exercise sovereignty over their national resources;

7. Employ all available means, including sanctions, to compel unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Jerusalem and all Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967;

8. Initiate appropriate steps to bring about a cessation of the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, and their dismantling;

9. Ensure the respect by Israel for the Geneva Conventions of 1949 in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

III. The Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, cognizant of the gross violations of recognized principles of international law and of the human rights of the Palestinian people, and after full and careful deliberations of the question of Palestine in all aspects and the situation in the Middle East, calls upon the United Nations Security Council:

1. To assume its primary responsibility in maintaining international peace and security, and to suppress acts of aggression and other breaches of peace in the Middle East which constitute a grave, continuing and growing threat to international peace and security;

2. To take prompt, firm and effective measures and actions, to establish an independent sovereign Palestinian State in Palestine through the implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, and General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, and the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, endorsed by General Assembly resolution 31/20 of 24 November 1976;

3. To establish appropriate institutional arrangements for the purpose of the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian state in Palestine by:

(a) Taking measures consistent with the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force to ensure Israel's withdrawal from Jerusalem and of Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, within a specific timetable;

4. Adhere to all the resolutions of the United Nations and its specialized agencies on the Holy City of Jerusalem, including those which reject Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and its declaration of that city as its capital;

5. Undertake measures to alleviate the economic and social burdens borne by the Palestinian people as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of their territories;

6. Seek and develop ways and means to enable the Palestinian people to exercise sovereignty over their national resources;

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3. To establish appropriate institutional arrangements for the purpose of the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian state in Palestine by:

(a) Taking measures consistent with the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force to ensure Israel's withdrawal from Jerusalem and of Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, within a specific timetable;

(b) Undertaking effective measures to guarantee the safety and security and legal and human rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories pending the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Jerusalem and all Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

(c) Administering the territory for a short transitional period after Israeli withdrawal;

(d) Facilitating the return of the Palestinians to their homes and property;

(e) Supervising elections of a constituent assembly in which all Palestinians will participate, as a step towards the exercise of their right to self-determination;

(f) Providing, if necessary, temporary peace-keeping forces in order to facilitate the implementation of sub-paragraphs (a) to (e) above.

IV. The Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, recalling its firm support for self-determination for all peoples under alien and colonial domination, recommends that the Asian and Pacific States:

1. Establish diplomatic relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization;
2. Encourage organizations such as those of women, teachers, workers, youth and students to undertake exchanges and other programmes of joint action with their Palestinian counterparts;
3. Encourage the formation of national committees in support of the Palestinian people;
4. Encourage the observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people;
5. Encourage the media and other institutions to disseminate relevant information to increase public awareness and understanding on the question of Palestine.

THE KUALA LUMPUR APPEAL

We, the States of the Asian and Pacific region representing nearly two thirds of humanity, deeply identified since the Bandung Conference with the struggles transforming the concepts of freedom, independence, self-determination and national liberation into political realities, and agonized by the tragic failure of the world community to resolve the question of Palestine for more than three decades of Palestinian dispersion, fragmentation and death, appeal to the nations of the world not only to recognize the grave urgency of the predicament of the Palestinian people, but also to marshal all efforts to guarantee the restoration of their national homeland and the exercise of their inalienable rights.

Furthermore, we draw particular attention to the constantly deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, where an aggressive Israeli policy of expansionism and exclusivist settlements is expelling yet another generation of Palestinians from their homes. Equally serious are the deadly threats to the lives of these people who only recently were traumatized by Israel's war of destruction in Lebanon and the massacres of Sabra and Shatila.

We wish to emphasize that the non-resolution of the question of Palestine, which is the core of the conflict in the Middle East, constitutes a present and dangerous crisis that is not confined to one region of the world, but is a threat to the peace and security of every State.

Therefore, we urge all States to participate in the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 16-27 August 1983, at a ministerial level, as a significant affirmation of their commitment to finally secure the rights of the Palestinian people.

Moreover, we appeal most fervently to Western Europe and North America, as regions maintaining the closest relations with Israel, to join Asia and other regions of the world in recognizing that the Palestinian people, like all other peoples under alien and colonial domination, has the right to self-determination and an independent State and to render concrete support and assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization in the pursuit of these objectives.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION ON LEBANON

The Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting expresses its grave concern at the situation in Lebanon arising from Israel's invasion of that country and its continued occupation of the Lebanese territory.

The meeting considers these Israeli actions in Lebanon as constituting a threat to international peace and security.

The Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting therefore requests the United Nations Security Council to take appropriate measures in order to compel Israel to implement the resolutions of the Security Council demanding the immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the entire Lebanese territory.

3. The Security Council resumed its debate on the situation in the occupied Arab territories

The Security Council, at the request of the Arab Group, resumed on 20 May 1983 its consideration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories and heard statements by the representatives of Qatar (Chairman of the Arab Group), PLO, Syria, India and Jordan. The Security Council began its current series of meetings on the item on 12 November 1982, at the request of the Arab Group and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It met again in February, to continue its consideration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The Security Council decided to meet again on the item at a later date to be decided in consultation among the members of the Council.

4. Eighth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine
held at Jakarta, Indonesia from 9-13 May 1983

1. The Eighth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine with "The Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People" as its central theme, was held in the Hotel Indonesia, Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 9-13 May 1983, in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 36/120 B. Seven meetings were held and 16 panelists presented papers on various aspects of the question of Palestine.
2. The United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was represented by a delegation consisting of H.E. Mr. Massamba Sarré (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee, H.E. Mr. Farid Zarif (Afghanistan), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan (India), Mr. Boer Mauna (Indonesia), Mr. Khalid Mahmood (Pakistan), Mr. Darko Silovic (Yugoslavia) and Mr. Z. L. Terzi (Palestine Liberation Organization). Mr. Sarre was Chairman and Mr. Boer Mauna Rapporteur of the Seminar.
3. The opening session of the Seminar on 9 May 1983 was addressed by H.E. Mr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, who stated that the Government and people of Indonesia had maintained a long-standing policy of unswerving support for all efforts by the international community to achieve the effective exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights. Indonesia's position had always been based on the firm conviction that lasting peace could only be established in the Middle East when the question of Palestine had been settled on an equitable and just basis.
4. The Seminar was being convened during a time when the Palestinians were being subjected to ever greater brutal oppression and killings. All of these heinous acts that had brought untold tragedy to the Palestinian people and to Lebanon, had sharply increased the danger of world-wide conflagration and had brought neither peace nor security to Israel.
5. While the terrorization of the Palestinian inhabitants of Lebanon continued, the population of the occupied territories had also experienced intensified repression, intimidation and a reign of terror.
6. A comprehensive, just and lasting solution must be achieved through the restoration to the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence and to the establishment of their own sovereign State. No solution could be comprehensive and just unless the Palestine Liberation Organization fully participated in the negotiations of that solution and its implementation. Peace and security in the region could only be based on Israel's total and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

7. The Foreign Minister expressed the hope that on the basis of the deliberations at the Seminar, both the participants and the large international press corps in Jakarta would do their part in heightening awareness and strengthening solidarity with the Palestinian people. He appealed particularly to the Indonesian press to give maximum coverage to the Seminar.

8. At the same opening session, Mr. Massamba Sarré, Chairman of the Committee, gave a brief account of the Committee's work. He emphasized the importance of the Seminar as a step towards ensuring that the rights of the Palestinians would be implemented. The Seminar itself was part of a programme to ensure that the facts relating to the question of Palestine reached not only those who are willing to listen, but also those who have hitherto consistently refused to do so or had been denied access to the facts. For a long time biased reporting had had the unfortunate effect of always presenting the Palestinian people and their hopes and ambitions in an unfavourable light or of completely ignoring them. If all the facts were known, the resultant understanding of the question would convince the international community of the just cause of the Palestinians. The International Conference on the Question of Palestine later this year was a further step in the search for a solution to the problem. It was absolutely essential that every Government should participate in that Conference and play an active role in it.

9. A message from H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was conveyed to the Seminar by Mr. Zehdi L. Terzi, Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations. Mr. Arafat's message referred to the heroic Palestinian people who had confronted and frustrated the military assault in Lebanon. The Zionists had then resorted to the act of genocide of unarmed defenceless civilians whose only protection was an assurance by the United States that adequate safeguards would be guaranteed. No such safeguards were in sight. The Palestine Liberation Organization had affirmed its adherence to all relevant United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine. The Palestinian people would persist in carrying the olive branch on the road to peace but would carry, as well, the gun to secure and ensure the peace process and to secure their safety and survival and the attainment and exercise of their inalienable rights.

10. Mrs. Rasil Basu, principal officer of the ICQP, made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General of the International Conference at the opening session. She outlined the objectives of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine and reviewed the work done by the four regional preparatory meetings, held in Africa, Latin America, Asia and West Asia, in preparation for the Conference. Those regional meetings were designed to build a firm political, juridical and socio-economic foundation for the International Conference. Each focused on a specific aspect of the larger Palestinian question. All four meetings underscored that the United Nations must be challenged to sharpen its focus and undertake more concrete steps regarding the question of Palestine.

11. H.E. Mr. H. Z. A. Oesman, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, made a statement at the opening session. He said that despite numerous United Nations resolutions on the recognition of the historical rights of the Palestinian people, and the approval of the Fcz Peace Plan by the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the State of Israel was becoming more and more obstinate and oppressive without the least consideration

for the official and popular international public opinion that stood by the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle. The international community must put pressure not only on Israel but also on the country which was behind this entity in order to compel it to abide by United Nations resolutions and particularly by those relating to the problem of Palestine and its people. The big Powers in the world, with the support of other States, should impose peace by cutting the Zionist, racist entity to its proper size, by depriving it of supplies and assistance and by imposing necessary sanctions against it, he concluded.

12. Dr. Muhammad H. El-Farra, Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, addressed the second meeting of the Seminar. In reviewing the historical transformation in the status of Palestine since the time of the Ottoman Empire up to the present, he cited the 1917 Balfour Declaration as Britain's "worst breach of faith". The League of Arab States wanted to see a just and lasting peace in Palestine which took Palestinian rights into account. It was against the basic concept of Zionism, which created an exclusively Jewish State on land purloined by force; a "master race" based on a religion, and a militant, expansionist policy, which was implemented in total disregard of the national rights of the Palestinian people. There could be no peace as long as Israeli leaders continued to gloss over the realities of the Palestinian people. The United States must realize that in dealing with the future of a people, the people must be consulted. Their future must be discussed with their representatives. The PLO was the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine and without its active participation there could be no peace.

13. Five panels were established to consider different aspects of the central theme "The Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People". These panels and their panelists were as follows:

- (i) Israeli Policies and Practices in the Occupied Palestinian and Arab Territories in the Light of the Recent Events in the Region
H.E. Mr. Ignatius Benedict Fonseka (Sri Lanka); Mr. Raja Shehadeh (Palestinian); Dr. Muhammad Aziz Shukri (Syrian Arab Republic)
- (ii) Asia and Palestine: Measures to Promote Solidarity and Mutual Support in the Search for Peace
Mr. Hardi (Indonesia); Mr. Nobuo Asai (Japan); Professor K. P. Saksena (India); Mr. Yu Mengjia (China); Mr. Saeeduddin Ahmed Dar (Pakistan)
- (iii) The Status of the Holy City of Jerusalem
Dr. Abdelwahab Bouhdiba (Tunisia); Mr. August Marpaung (Indonesia); Dr. Raouf Nazmi (Egypt); Dr. Kemal Oke (Turkey); H.E. Mr. Kacem Zhiri (Morocco)
- (iv) The Role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Social, Cultural, Economic and Political Development of the Palestinian People
Mr. Janusz Zebrowski (Poland)

- (v) The Role of the United Nations in the Search for Effective Measures to Enable the Palestinian People to Attain and to Exercise its Inalienable Rights with Special Emphasis on the Importance of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine

Dr. Oleg V. Kovtunovich (USSR); Dr. Amin Rais (Indonesia)

14. The Seminar decided that in accordance with previous practice, the papers presented by the panelists should be published in full by the United Nations together with the report of the Seminar. It was felt that this would be a valuable contribution towards objective appraisal of the question of Palestine.

15. The discussions that followed the presentation of papers covered several aspects of the question of Palestine and demonstrated a general consensus on the issues relating to the problem.

5. Resolution adopted by the European Parliament on the situation in the Middle East

The following resolution was adopted by the European Parliament on 19 May 1983, on the situation in the Middle East:

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its decisions on the Middle East and in particular the resolution contained in the PENDERS report of 11 January 1983,
 - having regard to the Council Decision of 9 June 1982,
 - having regard to the European Council's most recent declaration on the Middle East of 22 March 1983,
 - having regard to the dramatic escalation of the situation in the Middle East as reflected in the assassination of Mr Sartawi,
 - having regard to the efforts of King Hussein of Jordan,
 - having regard to the horrifying attack on the American Embassy in Beirut,
 - whereas Israel is continuing and intensifying its policy of settlement of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip,
 - having regard to the desperate plight of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and its effect on their health,
1. Condemns all violent attacks on persons and institutions which can only aggravate the situation;

2. Calls on the Foreign Ministers of the Community meeting in Luxembourg at the end of May to take a decision reaffirming the Community's vital role in finding a solution to the political problems of the Middle East and to take steps to implement their recommendations, that is, to use every available means in the context of the common foreign and external economic policy to urge Israel to call an immediate halt to its settlement policy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in order to avoid placing further pressure of time on the negotiations;
3. Urges the Community to take part in the Conference on the Palestinian question called by the UN General Assembly;
4. Calls on the Council of Ministers and the Heads of State or Government of the Community to use all their influence to find a solution to the crisis in the Middle East so that children and young people are no longer the victims of political conflicts in this part of the world;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Foreign Ministers of the European Community meeting in political cooperation, the Council and the Commission.

6. World Health Organization's report on a health emergency of an ill-defined nature on the West Bank, March - April 1983

The Members of the Security Council, on 4 April 1983, requested the Secretary-General to conduct independent inquiries concerning the causes and effects of the reported cases of poisoning in the occupied Arab territory of the West Bank and to report on the findings. The Secretary-General requested the World Health Organization to conduct the inquiry. On 10 May the Secretary-General received the World Health Organization's report. Full text of the report is as follows:

HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE ARAB POPULATION IN THE OCCUPIED
ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE
(S/15756)

Report by the Director-General on a health emergency of an
ill-defined nature on the West Bank, March-April 1983

Introduction

1. From the last week of March 1983, the news media reported the occurrence of ill-defined illnesses among the Palestinian population of the West Bank, mostly among schoolgirls. A number of media releases ascribed these illnesses to "mass poisoning".
2. During the latter part of March and early April, several Member States of WHO and the Secretary-General of the United Nations separately requested the Organization to assess the situation on the West Bank. At the same time, fulfilling its responsibility as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health work, WHO was already initiating action. WHO's initiative coincided with informal consultations of the Secretary-General of the United Nations with members of the United Nations Security Council on the same subject, which resulted in members of the Security Council requesting the Secretary-General "to conduct independent inquiries concerning the causes and effects of the serious problem of the reported cases of poisoning ...". The WHO action therefore constituted the independent inquiry which several Member States had requested of WHO and that members of the Security Council had requested of the Secretary-General.
3. The Special Committee of Experts established by the Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly in 1973 to study the health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, included this health emergency among the factors affecting the health situation that it considered during its visit from 6 to 14 April 1983. The observations of the Special Committee are recorded in its report to the Thirty-sixth World Health Assembly (document A/36/14).

WHO's independent inquiry

4. A WHO team composed of an epidemiologist and a toxicologist from the headquarters staff left Geneva for the West Bank on 4 April 1983. The team enjoyed full independence in its work. It visited each of the three districts in which cases were reported to have occurred. In each district the team:

- obtained from the senior medical officer of the district a detailed account of the situation since the onset of ill-defined illnesses among schoolgirls;
- conducted a site visit to the school or schools in the vicinity; and
- conducted a visit to the district hospital to which the cases were referred, and undertook a clinical examination of some patients.

5. In addition to the above, discussions were held with a large number of persons, including:

- the Director-General of Health Services, Israel;
- the Director, Public Health Division, West Bank, and his staff;
- the Director-General of Hospitals, West Bank, and his staff;
- the Chief Medical Officer, Health Services (Civil Administration);
- the Director of the Institute of Control and Standardization of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Health, Israel, and his staff;
- the Director of the Research Institute for Environmental Health, Tel Aviv University, and his staff;
- the Director of the Epidemiological Division, Ministry of Health, Israel, and his staff.

6. For further environmental investigations, the independent WHO team was strengthened by two further members of the headquarters staff: a sanitary engineer, who joined the team on the West Bank on 13 April 1983, and, later, an air pollution monitoring expert, who joined the team on 27 April 1983.

7. At the beginning of the stay of the WHO team on the West Bank, another team, consisting of the Director, Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations, and Field Studies, of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and a medical epidemiologist from the Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC, was carrying out clinical, epidemiological and environmental investigations. Their investigations were distinct from the inquiry made by the WHO team; however, the WHO and CDC experts met and the CDC team discussed its approach with the WHO team. Since then, the CDC team's report has been made public.

8. Serum specimens from acute cases (7 specimens), from convalescent and recovered patients (22 specimens) and from controls (21 specimens) were sent to WHO collaborating centres in Europe for toxicological and biological investigations. Environmental specimens, including sludge from a septic tank, were likewise sent to WHO collaborating centres in Europe for investigation.

9. The WHO team received the full support of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), which kindly provided secretarial, transport, telephone and all other necessary facilities.

Summary account of events

10. The health emergency comprised three successive episodes during the period 21 March to 4 April 1983. The first episode occurred on 21 March and involved the

elementary, primary and secondary classes of a girls' school in the northern part of the West Bank. The majority of the cases occurred on 21 March but some cases continued to occur during the next few days. The cases occurred mostly among schoolgirls, but three teachers, a worker in the school, and a person living near the school were also involved. All cases (more than 60) were hospitalized. The school was closed on 21 March and remained closed until 2 May 1983. The senior medical officer of the district and members of his staff arrived at the school within less than two hours of the time of onset of the first cases. The Director of the Public Health Division, West Bank, and the Chief Area Supervising Nurse, West Bank, visited the school on the evening of the same day. On both occasions the health teams were aware of an unpleasant smell and a transient irritation of the eyes and throat. Environmental investigations were carried out two days later, on 23 March, by the Research Institute for Environmental Health, Tel Aviv University.

11. The second episode, affecting over 300 persons, occurred mainly during the period 26-28 March and involved six girls' schools in the same district as the first episode. The cases presented the same clinical picture as had been noted in the first school. However, in contrast to the first episode, a relatively large number of adults of both sexes and not connected with the affected schools were taken ill. Cases also occurred in the schools and outside them on 29-31 March. Almost all cases were hospitalized and schools were closed.

12. The third episode, on 3 April, involved girls from two schools in another district in the northern part of the West Bank and two schools in one district in the southern part. A relatively small number of individuals not connected with the schools, the majority of them adults, also fell ill. A few cases also occurred in the southern part of the West Bank on 4 April. Again, almost all the cases (over 500) were admitted to hospital.

13. Following the third episode, all elementary, primary and secondary schools on the West Bank were closed. By 19 April 1983 they were all open again, except for the schools directly involved in the health emergency, which reopened in the first week of May 1983. No further cases have been reported.

Summary findings

14. On the basis of the inquiries made by the independent WHO team and of the information made available to it, the clinical manifestations, epidemiological observations, environmental investigations, and laboratory findings may be summarized as follows.

Clinical manifestations

15. Most of the cases had one or more of the following signs and symptoms: headache, dizziness, cyanosis of the extremities, myoriasis, myalgia, abdominal pain, vertigo or ataxia, tremors or twitches, nausea and vomiting, tachycardia, and general weakness. No fever was noted. The stay in hospital was usually between 4 and 5 days. A large proportion of patients experienced a recurrence of signs or

symptoms, and some had persistent symptoms for 2-3 weeks. All cases were admitted to hospitals on the West Bank, but some of those considered severe were transferred to hospitals in Israel. All cases have now been discharged from hospital. No deaths were reported.

16. Clinical laboratory investigations were conducted in hospitals on the West Bank and in Israel. The hospital records show an occasional proteinuria, transient alterations in serum electrolytes or alkalosis, and in one case anaemia; otherwise the hospital laboratory findings fell within the normal ranges.

Epidemiological observations

17. In the schools, cases occurred in all classes (1-12; elementary through secondary), but there were only a few cases in classes 1-4. In general, the highest incidence was observed in classes 9, 10 and 11. Cases occurred in persons ranging in age from below 10 years to 20 years, but in general the highest incidence was in the 13-17-year age range. A number of teachers and workers in the schools fell ill at the same time as the students.

18. Most cases outside the schools occurred in persons over 16 years old, the highest age recorded being 40 years. One third of these cases were in males.

19. The epidemiology of the episode in the first school was analysed in particular detail. The incidence rate by classroom showed a clustering in a few classrooms. The onset was marked by the occurrence of a few cases in the first hour of entry into class, of still fewer cases during the second hour, and of the majority of cases during the third hour. Cases among students and among adults connected with the school continued to occur after the closure of the school.

Environmental investigations

20. In the course of the investigations made on 23 March, hydrogen sulfide was detected in a classroom of the school where the first cases occurred. This suggested the possibility that gases from the decomposition of organic wastes may have emanated from the leaching pits connected to the school toilets.

21. The WHO team investigated this possibility. The results of this work, which was carried out on 1 May 1983, indicated that the toilets produce a certain amount of hydrogen sulfide but the concentrations encountered did not seem unusual for this type of facility under the climatic conditions that prevailed at the time and given the fact that the school had been closed since 21 March 1983. No hydrogen sulfide could be detected in the classrooms by the WHO team.

22. Sanitary facilities at all the other schools where outbreaks had occurred, and at nine schools from which no outbreaks had been reported, were carefully inspected. No features were found that would suggest that the sanitary conditions in the schools where outbreaks had occurred were significantly different from those in the other schools.

Laboratory findings at WHO collaborating centres

23. The blood specimens tested at the WHO collaborating centres were subjected to solvent extraction and processed by gas chromatography and scanning mass spectrometry. No differences between samples from cases and samples from controls were observed. The environmental specimens did not reveal abnormal findings.

Conclusions

24. The independence of the WHO inquiry was not affected by any authority or in any other way.

25. The epidemiological inquiry was, to a great extent, impaired by having to rely on a largely retrospective approach. This affected both the case investigations and the environmental investigations, but it particularly limited the usefulness of the biological and environmental samples taken retrospectively for the identification of toxic and microbiological substances. With the conditions prevailing during and after these outbreaks of ill-defined clusters of symptoms, the value of any structured or unstructured retrospective interviews of persons who had experienced various combinations of symptoms with varying degrees of intensity was also affected. For the same reason WHO cannot vouch for the correctness of the clinical findings made at the time the cases occurred, but the WHO team found no reason whatsoever to challenge the findings reported to it.

26. Within the above limitations, the WHO inquiry has not been able to indicate any specific cause or causes of this ill-defined health emergency. However, the initial medical records and interviews with cases in the first outbreak and with local health and other authorities suggest that an environmental agent could have provoked at least some cases in the first outbreak.

Recommendation

27. In view of the anxiety under which the population lives in these occupied territories, and given the susceptibility of girls during the stressful transitional period of adolescence, it is the Director-General's opinion that everything possible should be done to protect the local population from unnecessary alarm. For that purpose WHO's presence should be made available in the event of any suspected recrudescence of this ill-defined health emergency. This would not interfere with the normal activities of the local population. On the contrary, individuals, families, communities and the authorities should feel reassured by the knowledge that WHO could be mobilized in any case of need. Although it appears unlikely that the patients in this ill-defined health emergency will suffer any significant sequelae, there should also be provision for clinical follow-up by WHO should any of them or their families so request.

