



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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1. International Conference on the Question of Palestine

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine was held at the United Nations office at Geneva from 29 August to 7 September 1983, in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 36/120 C of 10 December 1981, ES-7/7 of 19 August 1982 and 37/86 C of December 1982 and with subsequent recommendations of the Preparatory Committee.

Pre-Conference consultations, open to all States invited to participate in the Conference and the PLO as the representative of the people most directly concerned, were held at the United Nations office at Geneva on 29 August 1983 to consider a number of procedural and organizational matters.

The Conference was attended by 117 States. Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, participated in the Conference in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. PLO participated in the Conference as the representative of the party most directly concerned. The Conference decided that, in the spirit of General Assembly resolutions 3210 (XXIX) and 3375 (XXX) of 14 October 1974 and 10 November 1975 respectively, the delegation of the PLO should be placed among the full participants in the Conference. Twenty states were represented at the Conference by observers. Ten units of the United Nations Secretariat, eight United Nations bodies and programmes, five United Nations committees and commissions, nine specialized agencies and related organizations and three national liberation movements were represented at the Conference. Eight inter-governmental organizations were represented by observers. Sixteen eminent persons were present at the invitation of the Preparatory Committee. One hundred and four concerned non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

The Conference was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. He observed that the decision of the General Assembly to convene the International Conference underscored the importance attached by the international community to the question of Palestine and to the urgent need to find a just solution to that problem, based on the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights.

All members of the international community shared a clear obligation to resolve the central problem of the Palestinian people which had engaged the attention of the United Nations for almost four decades. Today, the difficulties of arriving at a solution had become more complex than they were in 1947.

Nevertheless, since 1950, humanitarian assistance and relief to the Palestinian refugees had at least been provided through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Regrettably, UNRWA was beset by increasing financial difficulties. He hoped that all Governments would consider making additional voluntary contributions to UNRWA.

The continued efforts of the United Nations had also produced a consensus on the fundamental elements required for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem. In addition, peace initiatives proposed over the past year contained positive aspects, and the fact that disagreement persisted should not prevent a dialogue.

The Secretary-General stressed that the United Nations had a constructive and crucial role to play in the peace-making and peace-keeping process, and he reaffirmed his willingness to do everything in his power to advance this process. This Conference was the latest step in the search for a solution to the question of Palestine. It was his hope that it would contribute significantly to the attainment of a satisfactory solution.

Massamba Sarré, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, outlined the efforts of the United Nations which had led to the establishment of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. This had resulted in recommendations of the Committee which had been endorsed by the General Assembly repeatedly and by an ever-increasing majority which now approached near-unanimity.

The role of the United Nations was vital in the search for a solution to the problems of the Middle East. The Committee felt the need to ensure that objective information on the question of Palestine was widely disseminated and to create a climate for a just, durable and comprehensive solution to the problem. Non-governmental organizations had a vital contribution to make in the search for justice.

The Committee stressed the importance of the time factor. The fact that the problem had not been solved for many years only increased the sense of urgency. The Committee hoped that the Conference would urge speedy action on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. Israel should heed the Conference's appeal and ensure justice for the Palestinian people.

Abdul G. Koroma, Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, stated that the tenets that governed the work of his Committee proclaimed that the subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constituted a denial of fundamental human rights, was contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and was an impediment to the promotion of world peace and co-operation. Furthermore, any attempt aimed at partial or total destruction of the national unity and integrity of a country was incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

It was within this context that his Committee viewed with deep concern the plight of the Palestinian people. The time had come for concerted action to persuade the supporters of Israel to compel it to respond to relevant United Nations resolutions and to the will of the international community on the question of Palestine. Above all, Israel must be made to comply fully with General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State.

Yasser Ahbed Rabbo, member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, conveyed an address to the Conference from Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In that statement, Mr. Arafat emphasized the important role played by the United Nations in supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people for the attainment of its rights to self-determination, independence and statehood. The Palestinian people had remained steadfast in the face of Israeli aggression which had culminated in the Sabra and Shatila massacres. He asked whether the international community was to remain paralysed and unable to stop Israel's aggression merely because of the United States' support for Israel.

He called upon the States Members of the United Nations to restore the Organization's credibility by finding ways and means of implementing resolutions. He pointed out that the Camp David accords, the Israeli-Lebanese agreement and the Reagan plan had failed to provide the basis for a solution of the question of Palestine. He reminded the Conference that great wars had occurred in the course of this century because the international community had failed to assume its responsibility in resolving their root causes.

P.V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs of India, on behalf of his Government and also as current Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, read out a message from the Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

He then described the plight of the Palestinian people who had been driven out of their lands, where Israel now pursued its policy of settlements. Recent developments had introduced an even more complex and dangerous factor. Israel's invasion of Lebanon and its continued presence there further destabilized an already fragile environment. Ensuring peace in the region was a matter of global concern. The non-aligned world was firmly committed to the pursuit of peace in an atmosphere of co-operation and co-existence. Regrettably, the situation in the Middle East was developing contrary to the commitments of the non-aligned countries.

The question of Palestine had been a touchstone for the application of principles cherished by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries from its beginning. The Movement had inspired United Nations resolutions that had been adopted. The Conference should mobilize world public opinion, calling out forcefully for peace derived from the application of basic principles of equity and justice.

Habib Chatty, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, recalled that the issue under discussion was the very subject that had provided the basis for the establishment of his organization, which considered the problem of Palestine to be the overriding issue of the Muslim world. He emphasized that the Middle East could not attain peace and stability unless the Palestinian problem was resolved and the situation in that vital part of the world had ceased to present a threat to world peace. Member States of the United Nations were today required to balance their words with their deeds, their principles with such obligations as derived from their approval of international resolutions.

His organization was prepared for peace; the Arab peace plan could still serve as a basis for a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine.

In his statement, Chedli Klibi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, expressed appreciation for the preliminary studies prepared for the Conference.

He recalled that it was the Summit Meeting of the Arab heads of State held in 1974 at Rabat that had first acknowledged the initial legitimacy of Palestinian rights and recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He stressed that the Arab States attached great importance to a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem and the conflict in the Middle East.

The continued tensions in this region threatened not only regional peace and security, but that of the whole world. For this reason, the Arab States considered that the international community must become aware of the gravity of the situation in this region and adopt adequate practical measures for the recovery of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, as well as for the cessation of Israeli occupation of all Arab territories. He called upon the international community to show, through concrete actions, its fundamental faith in the right of all peoples to determine their own destiny.

At the conclusion of the opening statements, the Conference took up item 3 of its provisional agenda and elected, by acclamation, Moustapha Niasse, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Senegal, as President of the Conference.

In his opening statement, the President underlined the importance of the United Nations for the destiny of the Palestinian people and pointed out that the problem of Palestine persisted because one of the parties to the conflict was trying to impose a unilateral solution, which was unfair and unacceptable since it was inconsistent with international law and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

He reiterated that a peaceful solution based on United Nations resolutions required Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories, the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the affirmation of the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.

He considered the Arab peace plan adopted at Fez in 1982 to be a positive approach to the solution of the question of Palestine.

The Conference heard a statement by Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution.

In his address, he deplored the negative role of the United States in the Security Council and explained the reasons why the Palestine Liberation Organization could not accept the proposal advanced by President Reagan. The Palestine National Council accepted the Arab peace plan adopted by the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference at Fez on 9 September 1982 (A/37/696-S/15510, annex) and supported the peace initiative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Arafat stressed that the people of Palestine rejected war and were fighting for justice. He expressed the hope that this Conference could advance the search for practical means to secure the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, the Palestine Liberation Organization wished to put forward the following considerations:

First, the Middle East region should remain secure from monopolization by any one Power in the world;

Second, regaining of the rights of the Palestinian people was a legitimate international responsibility;

Third, the Fez Summit resolutions provided the minimum base for the attainment of justice;

Fourth, the only basis for peace in the region was the exercise of the Palestinian people's right to return, self-determination and national independence;

Fifth, the continuation of Israeli military aggression with United States' support destroyed any prospects for peace;

Sixth, American-Israeli policies which called for capitulation were rejected by the Palestine Liberation Organization;

Seventh, the Palestine Liberation Organization was ready to co-operate with the United Nations system within the framework of its resolutions relating to the question of Palestine. The Palestine Liberation Organization called for an International Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, in which the two major Powers would participate with all concerned parties in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

Mr. Arafat conveyed his greetings to democratic Jewish forces in and outside Israel that had rejected Israel's policies against the Palestinian people.

He stressed that all efforts to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization and to liquidate its infrastructure had failed. The Organization was determined to continue the struggle until victory.

Imre Hollai, President of the General Assembly, in his address, said that two ingredients were needed to arrive at a settlement of the problem of the Middle East: (a) self-restraint; and (b) the acceptance of the realities of the region. Self-restraint took into account other peoples' rights and recognized that a solution that favoured only one of the concerned parties carried within itself the source of further tension and consequent breakdown. As to the realities, it was a fact that no major crisis of the modern world could be resolved without the joint agreement of the two major Powers. Only by peaceful means and negotiation which guaranteed the rights and security of all peoples in the region could these problems be solved. The Conference had rightly recognized the role of the United Nations in that process.

The Conference adopted the following Geneva Declaration on Palestine and the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights:

GENEVA DECLARATION ON PALESTINE

and

PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

(A/38/497 - S/16038)

A. Geneva Declaration on Palestine

In pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 36/120 C of 10 December 1981, ES-7/7 of 19 August 1982 and 37/86 C of 10 December 1982, an International Conference on the Question of Palestine was convened at the United Nations office at Geneva from 29 August to 7 September 1983 to seek effective ways and means to enable the Palestinian people to attain and to exercise their inalienable rights. The Conference was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and presided over by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, Moustapha Niassé.

1. The Conference, having thoroughly considered the question of Palestine in all its aspects, expresses the grave concern of all nations and peoples regarding the international tension that has persisted for several decades in the Middle East, the principal cause of which is the denial by Israel, and those supporting its expansionist policies, of the inalienable legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The Conference reaffirms and stresses that a just solution of the question of Palestine, the core of the problem, is the crucial element in a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement in the Middle East.

2. The Conference recognizes that, as one of the most acute and complex problems of our time, the question of Palestine - inherited by the United Nations at the time of its establishment - requires a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement. This settlement must be based on the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions concerning the question of Palestine and the attainment of the legitimate, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and the right to the establishment of its own independent state in Palestine and should also be based on the provision by the Security Council of guarantees for peace and security among all States in the region, including the independent Palestinian State, within secure and internationally recognized boundaries. The Conference is convinced that the attainment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, as defined by General Assembly resolution 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, will contribute substantially to the achievement of peace and stability in the Middle East.

3. The Conference considers the role of the United Nations in the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East to be essential and paramount. It emphasizes the need for respect for, and application of the

provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the resolutions of the United Nations relevant to the question of Palestine and the observance of the principles of international law.

4. The Conference considers that the various proposals, consistent with the principles of international law, which have been presented on this question, such as the Arab peace plan adopted unanimously at the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference held at Fez, Morocco, in September 1982, should serve as guidelines for concerted international effort to resolve the question of Palestine. These guidelines include the following:

(a) The attainment by the Palestinian people of its legitimate inalienable rights, including the right to return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish its own independent state in Palestine;

(b) The right of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, to participate on an equal footing with other parties in all efforts, deliberations and conferences on the Middle East;

(c) The need to put an end to Israel's occupation of the Arab territories, in accordance with the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and, consequently, the need to secure Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;

(d) The need to oppose and reject such Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and any de facto situation created by Israel as are contrary to international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly the establishment of settlements, as these policies and practices constitute major obstacles to the achievement of peace in the Middle East;

(e) The need to reaffirm as null and void all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, including the expropriation of land and property situated thereon, and in particular the so-called "Basic Law" on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel;

(f) The right of all States in the region to existence within secure and internationally recognized boundaries, with justice and security for all the people, the sine qua non of which is the recognition and attainment of the legitimate, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as stated in paragraph (a) above.

5. In order to give effect to these guidelines, the Conference considers it essential that an international peace conference on the Middle East be convened on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant

resolutions of the United Nations, with the aim of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, an essential element of which would be the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in Palestine. This peace conference should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, as well as the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and other concerned States, on an equal footing. In this context the Security Council has a primary responsibility to create appropriate institutional arrangements on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions in order to guarantee and to carry out the accords of the International Peace Conference.

6. The International Conference on the Question of Palestine emphasizes the importance of the time factor in achieving a just solution to the problem of Palestine. The Conference is convinced that partial solutions are inadequate and delays in seeking a comprehensive solution do not eliminate tensions in the region.

B. Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine agreed that no effort should be spared to seek effective ways and means to enable the Palestinian people to attain and exercise their rights in Palestine in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of international law. The Conference, taking into consideration the Geneva Declaration on Palestine (sect. A above), recommended the following Programme of Action.

I

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine recommends that all States, individually or collectively, consistent with their respective constitutions and their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and in conformity with the principles of international law:

1. Recognize the great importance of the time factor in solving the question of Palestine;
2. Intensify efforts for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State within the framework of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the guidelines of the Geneva Declaration on Palestine;
3. Consider the continued presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, as exacerbating instability in the region and endangering international peace and security;

4. Oppose and reject, as a serious and continuing obstacle to peace, the expansionist policies pursued by Israel in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and in particular the alteration of the geographic nature and demographic composition, and the Israeli attempt to alter through domestic legislation the legal status of those territories and all the measures taken in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, both of 12 August 1949, and of the Hague Regulations of 1907, such as the establishment and expansion of settlements, the transfer of Israeli civilians into those territories and the individual and mass transfers therefrom of the Arab Palestinian population;

5. Refrain from providing Israel with assistance of such a nature as to encourage it militarily, economically and financially to continue its aggression, occupation and disregard of its obligations under the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

6. Not encourage migration to the occupied Arab territories until Israel has put a definitive end to the implementation of its illegal policy of establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967;

7. Fully comply with the relevant 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;

8. Undertake universal efforts to protect the Holy Places and urge Israel to take measures to prevent their desecration;

9. Consider ways and means of meeting the threat that Israel poses to the regional security in Africa in view of Israel's disregard of United Nations resolutions, and its close collaboration with the apartheid régime in the economic, military and nuclear fields, thereby contributing to the continued illegal occupation of Namibia and enhancing the régime's repressive and aggressive capacity;

10. Encourage, through bilateral and multilateral contacts, all States, including Western European and North American States which have not done so, to welcome all peace initiatives based on the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, which were also welcomed by Chairman Yasser Arafat in his address to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine;

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

12. Express concern that Israel debars Palestinians from economic activity and access to national resources on Palestinian territory, in consistent violation of General Assembly resolutions on the right of the Palestinians to permanent sovereignty over their national resources;

13. Declare null and void, and counter such measures and practices applied by Israel in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, as the annexation and the expropriation of land, water resources, and property and the alteration of the demographic, geographic, historical and cultural features thereof;

14. 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 since 1967;

15. Consider contributing or increasing special contributions to the proposed budgets, programmes and projects of the relevant organs, funds and agencies of the United Nations system that have been requested to provide humanitarian, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, with particular reference to:

(a) General Assembly resolution 33/147 of 20 December 1978, and the appeal of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its thirtieth session, for additional special contributions amounting to at least \$8 million during the third programming cycle (1982-1986) aimed at helping to meet the economic and social needs of the Palestinian people;

(b) The proposed programme budget of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the biennium 1984/1985 regarding the establishment within UNCTAD of a special economic unit, as requested by UNCTAD at its sixth session at Belgrade;

(c) Establishing a special legal aid fund to assist Palestinians in securing their rights under conditions of occupation, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

16. Ensure that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East can meet the essential needs of the Palestinians without interruption or any diminution in the effectiveness of its services;

17. Review the situation of Palestinian women in Israeli occupied territories and, in view of their special hardships, urge the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held at Nairobi in 1985, to include this item on the agenda of the Conference;

18. Review, if they have not yet done so, in conformity with their national legislation, their economic, cultural, technical and other relations with Israel, and the agreements governing them with the aim of ensuring that these regulations and agreements will not be interpreted or construed as implying in any way recognition of any modification of the legal status of Jerusalem and of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, or an acceptance of Israel's illegal presence in those territories;

19. Recognize that the process of enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in Palestine is a significant contribution to the restoration of the rule of law in international relations;

20. Assure the observance of the stipulations provided in General Assembly resolution 181 (II) guaranteeing to all persons equal and non-discriminatory rights in civil, political, economic and religious matters and the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion, speech, publication, education, assembly and association;

21. Express concern that the laws applicable in the occupied Arab territories have been totally eclipsed by a plethora of military orders that have been designed to establish a new "legal régime" in violation of the Hague Regulations of 1907, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

22. Act in accordance with their obligations under existing international law, in particular with regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 which require States Parties to respect and to ensure respect for those conventions in all circumstances, and in particular ensure the respect by Israel for the Geneva Conventions of 1949 in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories;

23. Express concern that the Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territories are deprived of juridical and other kinds of protection, that they are victims of repressive legislation, involving mass arrests, acts of torture, destruction of houses, and the expulsion of people from their homes, acts which constitute flagrant violations of human rights;

24. Recognize the necessity that Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners detained by Israel be accorded the status of prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 1949, if combatants, or in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949, if civilians;

25. Strive for the adoption of international measures so that Israel will implement in the West Bank and Gaza the provisions of the Hague Regulations of 1907 and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons, in the light of Security Council resolution 465 (1980);

26. Recognize, if they have not yet done so, the Palestine Liberation Organization as the representative of the Palestinian people and establish with it appropriate relations;

27. Encourage, in conformity with their national legislations, the formation of national committees in support of the Palestinian people;

28. Encourage the observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, in a most effective and meaningful way;

29. Request the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session to designate a Year of Palestine, to be observed at the earliest possible time, taking into consideration the factors necessary to ensure its effective preparation for the purpose of galvanizing world-wide public opinion and support for further implementation of the Geneva Declaration on Palestine and the Programme of Action.

II

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine stresses the obligation of all Member States, under the Charter of the United Nations to enable the United Nations through an expanded and more effective role to fulfil its responsibility for achieving a solution to the question of Palestine. To this end;

A

States participating in the Conference invite the Security Council, as the organ with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security:

1. To suppress continuing and growing acts of aggression and other breaches of peace in the Middle East which endanger peace and security in the region and the world as a whole;

2. To take prompt, firm and effective steps and actions to establish an independent sovereign Palestinian State in Palestine through the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, by facilitating the organization of the international peace conference on the Middle East, as called for in paragraph 5 of the Geneva Declaration on Palestine, and by creating in this context the appropriate institutional arrangements on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions in order to guarantee and carry out the accords of the international peace conference, including the following:

- (a) Taking measures consistent with the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force to ensure Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, within a specific time-table;
- (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 the Israeli forces from the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;
- (c) Subjecting those territories, following the withdrawal of Israel, to a short transitional period, under the supervision of the United Nations, during which period the Palestinian people would exercise its right to self-determination;
- (d) Facilitating the implementation of the right to return of the Palestinians to their homes and property;
- (e) Supervising elections to the constituent assembly of the independent Palestinian State in which all Palestinians shall participate, in the exercise of their right to self-determination;
- (f) Providing, if necessary, temporary peace-keeping forces in order to facilitate the implementation of subparagraphs (a)-(e) above.

B

Meanwhile the Security Council is also invited:

- 1. To take urgent action to bring about an immediate and complete cessation of such Israeli policies in the occupied territories, and in particular, the establishment of settlements as have been determined by the Security Council to have no legal validity and as a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;
- 2. To consider urgently the reports of the Commission established under its resolution 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, which examined the situation concerning settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and to reactivate the above-mentioned Commission;
- 3. To initiate action to terminate Israel's exploitative policies which go against the indigenous economic development of the occupied territories, and to

compel Israel to lift its restrictions on water use and well-drilling by Palestinian farmers as well as its diversion of West Bank water resources into the Israeli water grid systems;

4. To keep under its constant attention the actions committed by Israel against the Palestinian people in violation of the stipulations provided for in relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular the stipulations of resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 guaranteeing to all persons equal and non-discriminatory rights and freedoms;

5. To consider, in the event of Israel's persistent non-compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions which embody the will of the international community, appropriate measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to ensure Israel's compliance with these resolutions.

C

1. Taking into account the recommendations of the five regional preparatory meetings of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine and United Nations resolutions concerning economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to convene a meeting of the specialized agencies and other organizations associated with the United Nations, as well as representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization and of those countries which are hosts to Palestinian refugees, and other potential sources of assistance, to develop a co-ordinated programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people and to ensure its implementation.

2. The meeting should also look into the most effective inter-agency machinery to co-ordinate and sustain and intensify United Nations assistance to the Palestinian people.

D

The dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information world-wide, and the role of non-governmental organizations and institutions, remains of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian State. To these ends:

1. The Department for Public Information of the United Nations, in full co-operation and constant consultations with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People should:

(a) Co-ordinate all information activities of the United Nations system on Palestine through the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC);

(b) Expand publications and audio and visual coverage of the facts and of developments pertaining to the question of Palestine;

(c) Publish newsletters and articles in its respective publications on Israeli violations of human rights of the Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories and organize fact-finding missions for journalists to the area;

(d) Organize regional encounters for journalists;

(e) Disseminate appropriate information on the results of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine;

2. Relevant organizations of the United Nations systems should organize meetings, symposia and seminars on topics within their terms of reference and relating to specific problems of the Palestinian people by establishing closer liaison with non-governmental organizations, the media and other groups interested in the question of Palestine.

III

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine, convinced of the important role of world-wide public opinion in resolving the Question of Palestine, and in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, urges and encourages:

1. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations 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 and its negative effects on the economic development of the West Asian region as a whole;

2. Non-governmental organizations and professional and popular associations to intensify their efforts to support the rights of the Palestinian people in every possible way;

3. Organizations such as those of women, teachers, workers, youths and students to undertake exchanges and other programmes of joint action with their Palestinian counterparts;

4. Women's associations, in particular, to investigate the conditions of Palestinian women and children in all occupied territories;

5. The media and other institutions to disseminate relevant information to increase public awareness and understanding of the question of Palestine;

6. Institutions of higher education to promote the study of the question of Palestine in all its aspects;

7. Various jurists' associations to establish special investigative commissions to determine the violations by Israel of the Palestinians' legal rights and to disseminate their findings accordingly;

8. Jurists to initiate with their Palestinian counterparts consultations, research and investigations on the juridical aspects of problems affecting the

southern African and Palestinian struggles, in particular the detention of political prisoners and the denial of prisoner-of-war status to detained members of the national liberation movements of southern Africa and Palestine;

9. Parliamentarians, political parties, trade unions, organizations for solidarity and intellectuals particularly in Western Europe and North America, to join their counterparts in other parts of the world in giving their support, where it has not been done, to an initiative which would express the desire of the international community to see the Palestinian people at last living in their own independent homeland in peace, freedom and dignity.

2. Action taken by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

On 14 September 1983 the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People approved in principle the idea that it co-operate in the production of a "Palestine Calendar" for 1984. The Calendar, which will be illustrated with scenes of cities in the occupied Arab territories, is to be produced by the German Democratic Republic's Committee in Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

On 28 September the Committee adopted its report to the General Assembly (A/38/35). The Committee recommended that the final documents of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine were of great value for a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement of the question of Palestine. While unanimously supporting the Geneva Declaration and the Programme of Action, the Committee appealed to the General Assembly and to the Security Council to endorse those documents and to give full support for their implementation. The Committee specifically recommended that concrete action be undertaken to convene the International Peace Conference on the Middle East envisaged in the Geneva Declaration on Palestine and the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights and appealed to the parties concerned, and to the United States and Soviet Union, to co-operate fully in that regard.

On 14 October 1983, the Committee, in its capacity as the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, adopted its report to the General Assembly on the work of its second session (A/Conf. 114/PC/2/CRP. 8).

3. Paragraphs adopted in the Final Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Non-Aligned Countries to the 38th session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 4 - 7 October 1983 on the Middle East and Palestine
(A/38/495 - S/16035)

The following paragraphs were adopted on the Middle East and Palestine:

THE MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their total support of and determination to work for the early attainment of the legitimate inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent State in Palestine. They reaffirmed that the question of Palestine is at the core of the Middle East problem and the root cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The question of Palestine and the Middle East problem form an indivisible whole and cannot be dealt with or resolved separately. In view of this, a partial solution or a solution confined to some aspects of the conflict to the exclusion of others is not possible. Nor is it possible to establish a partial peace. Peace should be just and comprehensive. A just peace in the region can only be based on Israel's total and unconditional withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, in accordance with the principle of inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force and the restoration of all the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return to their homes, the right to self-determination without foreign interference and the right to establish their own independent and sovereign State in their national territory on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November, 1974.

Reiterating the decisions of the New Delhi Summit by which it expressed support for and adopted the Arab Peace Plan proclaimed at the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference held at Fez, Morocco, and emphasized that this Plan, being based on international legitimacy and on the principles of right and justice, constitutes a framework for establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East, the Meeting stressed the need for a concerted international action to ensure its implementation based on the principles enunciated above. No action should be taken inconsistent with these principles which would adversely affect the struggle of the Arab countries for the liberation of their territories and of the Palestinian people for the liberation of their homeland and restoration of their inalienable national rights.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation endorsed the Geneva Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the recently concluded International Conference on the Question of Palestine held in Geneva from August 29 to September 7, 1983 and called for the speedy implementation of the recommendations contained in Geneva Declaration issued at the end of that Conference. In particular, they supported the call for an

International Peace Conference on the Middle East to be convened under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation on an equal footing with equal rights of all parties to the conflict including the PLO as well as the USA and USSR and other concerned States. They further stressed the primary responsibility of the Security Council to create appropriate institutional arrangements in order to guarantee and carry out any accords that may emerge from such an International Peace Conference.

The Non-aligned countries reiterated their opposition to and rejection of Israeli practices and policies in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, particularly the establishment of settlements. All settlements set up or to be set up by Israel in occupied territories are illegal under international law and constitute an obstacle to peace. They should, therefore, be dismantled immediately and no new settlements should be set up and the proliferation of existing settlements should not be allowed. The meeting also expressed its opposition to the persistent violation of the rights of the indigenous Arab population, their forced dispersal and other policies calculated to alter the basic character and status of these territories. These actions are contrary to international law and relevant U.N. resolutions and have been declared as null and void on many occasions and in various forums.

The Non-aligned countries re-affirmed their categorical rejection of all Israeli policies aimed at changing the geographical features, the demographic composition or the legal status of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. They resolved not to recognise any changes made by Israel in the aforesaid territories and called upon all States not to recognise them and to refrain from any cooperation with Israel that might encourage it to pursue its policies and practices in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

The Non-aligned countries reaffirmed their strong condemnation of Israel for its refusal to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly relating to the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. They also affirmed that Israel's decision to annex these Heights and the measures taken to implement its decisions are null and void and without any legal validity. Such decisions have no legal effect and are not recognised.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the decision taken by the Heads of State or Government at their meeting in Algiers, urging non-aligned countries to work for a boycott of Israel in the diplomatic, economic, military and cultural fields and in the sphere of maritime and air traffic in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The Foreign Ministers stressed the need to continue to implement the aforementioned decision and urged

member countries of the Movement to adhere to it and apply it strictly.

The meeting expressed concern over the safety and security of the Palestinians, particularly in the occupied Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories. The meeting also condemned the intensification of Israel's aggressive practices, the escalation of its military expansionism, and deplored the support given by the government of the United States of America to such practices and actions particularly their "agreement on mutual cooperation" in the strategic alliance.

The meeting re-affirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and as such has the right to participate on an independent and equal footing in all international conferences, efforts and deliberations dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian cause, and to secure the realisation of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. Such an invitation will confer on the PLO the same rights as those conferred on the other participants. No solution can be considered comprehensive or acceptable without PLO participation in its elaboration and acceptance.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation reiterated their conviction that a just and lasting settlement would ensure the right of all States in the region, including the independent Palestinian state, to existence within secure and internationally recognised boundaries, with justice and security for all the people, the sine qua non of which is the recognition and attainment of the legitimate, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including the right to return, the right to self determination without foreign interference and the right to establish its own independent state in Palestine.

Considering the grave situation confronting Lebanon, the Meeting re-affirmed its position as reflected in para 99 of the Political Declaration of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State/Government held in New Delhi in March 1983 and reiterated its support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Lebanon.

