



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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1. The Security Council considers the situation in the Middle East

The Security Council met at the request of the Government of Lebanon in order to consider all practices and measures taken by the Israeli occupying authorities in southern Lebanon, the western Bekaa and the Rashaya region. The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People took part in the debate and made the following statement (S/PV. 2553):

We have met again to take up the situation in southern Lebanon. In May last year, during another series of meetings on the same subject and on the situation in the Ein el Hilweh Palestinian camps, we had thought that the Council would finally find the ways and means to enable that country, an innocent victim, to recover its independence and dignity the better to devote itself to the task of reconstruction and, what is more, to make a contribution to the efforts to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. That perfectly legitimate hope quickly gave way to recurring outbreaks of violence to the point of threatening Lebanon's very existence as a country, which merely aspires to living in peace with all the other States of the region.

However, this acknowledgement of failure should not lead to resignation on the part of the international community; quite the contrary. It is the duty and the responsibility of the Security Council to take all appropriate steps to save Lebanon from imminent disintegration. Indeed, everything leads us to believe that Israeli practices in southern Lebanon point in that direction. Not content with occupying that part of Lebanon, thereby flouting the norms of international law and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, Israel is doing everything it can to remove it from Lebanese sovereignty. For example, to go from one place to another in their own territory the Lebanese today must first obtain permission from the Israeli authorities. For the rest, I would refer members of the Council to the very enlightening statement made yesterday by the Permanent Representative of Lebanon.

In light of all that has happened, and also taking account of the deliberations that have been going on for nearly two years on the situation

prevailing in Lebanon, I believe that today we must rise above mutual recriminations and get down to the task of peace, which is our responsibility. The framework for peace has been defined by the General Assembly in resolution 38/58 C. The Secretary-General of our Organization, to whom we pay tribute for his constant efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis, has already taken the necessary steps with the parties concerned with a view to implementing that resolution.

The replies received to date by the Secretariat are very encouraging, and we can say that the international community as a whole supports a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question.

Indeed, in a statement on 27 March 1984 on the Middle East, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the European Economic Community declared that any solution of this question must include the right to existence and to security of all States, including Israel, and that any settlement - and I stress this - must reflect the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, which implies recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Those States called on all parties to act in keeping with these principles and to begin the necessary negotiations to apply them.

Similarly, in the resolution adopted by the seventy-first Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Geneva in April 1984, on the "Growing threat to international peace and security in the Middle East", the Conference stressed the need to promote dialogue between the parties concerned with a view to finding a lasting solution to the crisis.

More recently, at the North American United Nations Regional Symposium on the Question of Palestine, held from 25 to 27 June 1984 at United Nations Headquarters, the representatives of 60 non-governmental organizations called upon the peoples and Governments of the United States and Canada to take decisive action to bring about a comprehensive just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine. They all believed that all the parties to the conflict should meet at an international peace conference on the question of Palestine, a principle adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/58 C.

At the seminar on the rights of the Palestinians, held in Tunisia from 14 to 18 August 1984, the participants, which included parliamentarians from Europe and Africa, unanimously endorsed the convening of an international peace conference on the question of the Middle East. Following that seminar, an international meeting of non-governmental organizations on the question of Palestine was held in Geneva from 20 to 22 August. Ninety-eight non-governmental organizations participated, including six from Israel. In fact, four Israelis - Jews and Palestinians - were among the keynote speakers.

In the resolution adopted at that meeting, the non-governmental organizations pledged direct support for General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, which calls for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

As members will have seen, there is an international consensus on the need for a comprehensive just and lasting settlement of the question of the Middle East and Palestine. The international community also espouses the idea that there can be no peace in the Middle East so long as the question of Palestine has not been settled in a just and lasting manner.

In the light of all these considerations, this Council, whose role it is to promote international peace and security, must get down to action. In so doing it will discharge its mandate and live up to the expectations of history. Until that happens, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People expresses solidarity with the people of Lebanon, which has suffered so much to attain justice. It is high time that it enjoyed justice, full sovereignty and integrity.

On 6 September 1984, the Security Council had before it a draft resolution, submitted by Lebanon (S/16732). The draft resolution affirmed that the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 applied to the territories occupied by Israel in southern Lebanon, the western Bekaa and Rashaya district, and that the occupying Power was duty bound to respect and uphold the provisions of the said Convention and of other norms of international law. It demanded that Israel immediately lift all restrictions and obstacles to the restoration of normal conditions in the areas under its occupation in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, particularly concerning the closing of roads and crossings, the limitation of freedom of movement of individuals and the normal flow of persons and goods between those areas and the rest of Lebanon.

The Security Council voted on the draft resolution. The draft received 14 votes in favour to one against (United States), with no abstentions, and was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Security Council.

2. The World Health Assembly adopts a resolution on health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

The thirty-seventh World Health Assembly, on 19 May 1984, adopted the following resolution on health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine (WHA 37.26):

The Thirty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Mindful of the basic principle established in the WHO Constitution, which affirms that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security;

Aware of its responsibility for ensuring proper health conditions for all peoples who suffer from exceptional situations, including foreign occupation and especially settler colonialism;

Affirming the principle that the acquisition of territories by force is inadmissible and that any occupation of territories by force gravely affects the health, social, psychological, mental and physical conditions of the people under occupation and that this can be rectified only by the complete and immediate termination of the occupation;

Considering that the States parties to the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 pledged themselves, under Article One thereof, not only to respect the Convention but also to ensure that it was respected in all circumstances;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolutions Nos. 38/58 of 13 December 1983 and 38/79 of 15 December 1983 and all other United Nations resolutions relative to the questions of Palestine and the Middle East;

Mindful of the struggle that the Palestinian people, led by the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative, have waged for their rights to self-determination, to return to their homeland and to establish their independent State in Palestine;

Reiterating the support to this struggle expressed in many resolutions of the United Nations and other international institutions and organizations that call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories including Palestine;

Taking note of the report of the Special Committee of Experts;

Considering the right of the peoples to organize for themselves the provision of their own health and social services;

1. ENDORSES resolution WHA36.27 and previous relevant resolutions of the Health Assembly;
2. CONDEMNS Israel for its continuing occupation of the Arab territories including Palestine and its continuing arbitrary practices against the Arab population;

3. CONDEMNS Israel for the continued establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine and the Golan, and the illegal exploitation of the natural wealth and resources of the Arab inhabitants in those territories, especially the appropriation of water resources and their diversion for the purpose of occupation and settlement, and demands that the establishment of new settlements be stopped immediately and that those already established be dismantled;
4. DEMANDS an immediate end to occupation, violence and oppression to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable national rights, which is a prerequisite to the establishment of a health and social system that would include all necessary institutions to meet its needs;
5. CONDEMNS Israel for its policy aiming at, as part of its overall plan of annexation of the occupied territories, making the Arab population dependent on the Israeli health system by paralysing the services in the Arab health and social institutions;
6. CONDEMNS Israel for continuously raising obstacles to the implementation of resolution WHA36.27, sub-paragraph 8(2), which requests the establishment of three health centres in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, under the direct supervision of WHO;
7. THANKS the Director-General for his efforts to implement sub-paragraph 8(2) of resolution WHA36.27 and requests that he pursue these efforts until the full implementation of this resolution and submit a report to the Thirty-eighth World Health Assembly;
8. REAFFIRMS the right of the Palestinian people to have its own institutions which provide medical and social services, and requests the Director-General:
 - (1) to collaborate and coordinate further with the Arab States concerned and with the Palestine Liberation Organization concerning the provision of the necessary assistance to the Palestinian people;
 - (2) to take suitable steps to ensure WHO participation in the implementation of the programme of action adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine convened in Geneva on 29 August 1983;
 - (3) to monitor the health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, and report regularly to the Health Assembly;
9. THANKS the Special Committee of Experts for its report and requests it to continue its task with respect to all the implications of occupation and the policies of the occupying Israeli authorities and their various practices which adversely affect the health conditions of the Arab inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, both physically and psychologically, and to report to the Thirty-eighth World Health Assembly, in coordination with the Arab States concerned and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

3. The Economic and Social Council adopts resolutions and decisions on the question of Palestine

In its first regular session of 1984 (New York, 1 - 25 May), the Council adopted the following resolution on the situation of Palestinian women within and outside the occupied Arab territories (resolution 1984/18):

The Economic and Social Council,

Deeply concerned about the prevailing living conditions of Palestinian women within and outside the occupied Arab territories,

Recognizing that the mass uprooting of Palestinian women from their homeland seriously affects their participation and integration in the development process,

Noting that no comprehensive study relating to the status of Palestinian women within and outside the occupied Arab territories has been conducted in the United Nations system since the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other appropriate United Nations organizations,

Taking note of chapter II of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of Palestinian women and children in the occupied Arab territories, submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirtieth session,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to submit an updated version of that report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session;
2. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on the situation of Palestinian women living within and outside the occupied Arab territories and to submit it to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-second session;
3. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit an interim report on the preparation of that study to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-first session;
4. Invites all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and United Nations bodies to extend all necessary assistance to the Secretary-General in this regard.

In its second regular session of 1984 (Geneva, 4 - 27 July), the Council adopted the following resolution and decisions on the question of Palestine (resolution 1984/56):

1984/56. Assistance to the Palestinian people

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 38/145 of 19 December 1983,

Recalling also Council resolution 1983/43 of 25 July 1983,

Noting the need to provide economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people,

Noting also the oral report made by the representative of the Secretary-General before the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee of the Council on 9 July 1984, concerning the meeting on assistance to the Palestinian people held at Geneva on 5 and 6 July 1984 in response to General Assembly resolution 38/145,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people;
2. Expresses its thanks to the Secretary-General for convening the meeting on assistance to the Palestinian people, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 38/145;
3. Regards such a meeting as a valuable opportunity to assess progress in economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people and to explore ways and means of enhancing such assistance;
4. Draws the attention of the international community, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the need to ensure that their aid to the occupied Palestinian territories is disbursed only for the benefit of the Palestinian people and is not used in any manner to serve the interests of the Israeli occupation authorities;
5. Requests the competent programmes, organizations, agencies and organs of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts, in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, to provide economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people;
6. Also requests that United Nations assistance to the Palestinians in the Arab host countries should be rendered in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and with the consent of the Arab host Government concerned;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people.

1984/173. Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 26 July 1984, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories and decided to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session for consideration.

1984/181. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 26 July 1984, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 38/144 of 19 December 1983, and decided to transmit it to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session for consideration.

4. Ninth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine held at Tunis from 14 to 18 August 1984

1. With the kind consent and assistance of the Government of Tunisia and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 B, the Ninth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine, was held in the Palais de Congrès, Tunis, Tunisia, from Tuesday, 14 August to Friday, 17 August 1984.

2. The "Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People" was the Seminar's central theme.

3. Eight meetings were held at which nineteen panelists presented papers on various aspects of the question of Palestine. The frank and open discussion which followed the presentations of the papers afforded participants an opportunity to engage in a wide-ranging examination of important aspects of the question, and to focus particular attention on means for the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

4. The large attendance at the meetings reflected both the importance attached to the problem and the widespread interest in finding a just and lasting solution for the unacceptable plight of the Palestinian people.

5. The United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people was represented at the Seminar by a delegation consisting of H.E. Mr. Massamba Sarré (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee and leader of the delegation; H.E. Mr. Victor J. Gauci (Malta), Rapporteur of the Committee; Mr. Vladimir F. Skofenko (Ukrainian S S R); Mr. Mohamed Lessir (Tunisia); Mr. Cheikh Sylla (Senegal) and Mr. Zehdi L. Terzi (Palestine Liberation Organization). H.E. Mr. Victor J. Gauci acted as Rapporteur of the Seminar.

6. H.E. Mr. Massamba Sarré, Chairman of the Committee, in his opening remarks, referred to the long-standing importance devoted to the question of Palestine by the United Nations and to the impressive support for the recommendations made by the Committee established in 1976. He also drew attention to the Committee's encouraging success in its persistent efforts to provide objective information on the subject and its conviction that, when the facts were known and understood, the way to a just solution would be facilitated.

7. Stressing the Committee's concern about the time factor, he pointed out that events on the spot had proved time and time again that delay only made the search for a solution more difficult. It was therefore all the more regrettable that progress towards the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East was being obstructed, since a conference could prove to be a major breakthrough in the situation. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was to be commended for his efforts in this direction and it behoved all States to extend every support to him. This Seminar could be a spur to such efforts.

8. In this connection he also referred to the discernible positive evolution of Western European thought on the question of Palestine, and the necessity to devote particular attention on Europe in an attempt to promote among Western European governments a better appreciation of the Committee's recommendations. For this reason, an attempt had been made to have at this Seminar as many European policy-makers and parliamentarians as possible, while maintaining an equitable geographic distribution.

9. The Committee considers that the best forum in which to work for a solution remains the United Nations, particularly the Security Council. Unfortunately, Israel's attitude in rejecting United Nations resolutions and its policy towards the Palestinians and its Arab neighbours, as well as its actions in Jerusalem and in the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories greatly exacerbated tensions and placed formidable obstacles to a peaceful solution of the question.

10. Addressing the opening meeting, His Excellency Mahmoud Mestiri, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Tunisian Republic stated that Tunisia had always stood for international legality and remained convinced that the United Nations provided the natural framework for the solution of the Palestinian question. Its decisions and recommendations offered the elements necessary to achieve a durable solution.

11. In contrast to Israel's adamant refusal to respond positively to any proposal for peace, Arab States and the Palestine Liberation Organization had amply demonstrated their desire for peace by their ready acceptance of any peace initiative based on justice and law.

12. Tunisia considered that the Fez Plan, based as it was on international legality as borne out by United Nations resolutions, particularly United Nations General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 27 November 1947, coincided with His Excellency President Bourguiba's ideas and included the essential principles for a just and durable solution to the problem.

13. The opening session was addressed by H.E. Mr. Adnan Omrane, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Seydou Traore, on behalf of the United Nations Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, H.E. Mr. Mamadou Kante, Executive Secretary of the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Alfred Jassnowski on behalf of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, H.E. Mr. Yin Dexin, Chargé d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Boris L. Kolokolov, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Soviet Federative Republic of the USSR, H.E. Mr. Hussein Mecharrafa, Ambassador in charge of Egyptian Interests in Tunisia.

14. At the same meeting H.E. Mr. Chafiq Al-Howt, Member of the Central Committee of the Palestine National Council and leader of the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, outlined the current situation of the Palestinian people and conveyed to the United Nations and the Seminar the thanks of his Organization for the efforts being made on behalf of the Palestinian people.

15. Messages addressed to the Seminar were received from the Foreign Minister of India and the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka.

16. The Seminar also received a message from the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr. Yasser Arafat, conveyed by Mr. Chafiq Al-Hout, leader of the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The text of the message is attached to the report.

17. 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:

1. The role of the United Nations and other Forums and Organizations in the Search for Peace in the Middle East:

- Dr. Jozsef BIRO (Hungary) former Minister and Member of Parliament
- Dr. Mohammed Hassan EL-ZAYYAT (Egypt) Member of Parliament, former Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Alex KOROMA (Sierra Leone) Member of Parliament
- Mr. Albrecht KONECNY (Austria) Member of Parliament
- Mr. Ernie ROSS (United Kingdom) Member of Parliament
- Mr. Abdoulaye SACKO (Mali) Member of Parliament
- Dr. Ibra Mamadou WANE (Senegal) Member of the National Assembly, Former Minister of Education.

2. The International Peace Conference on the Middle East (General Assembly resolution 38/58 C), the Need for Such a Conference; Efforts Prospects to Promote a Successful Outcome, and Benefits Thereof;

- Mr. Klaas de VRIES (Netherlands) Member of Parliament
- Mr. Jean-Claude RAHAGA (Madagascar) Member of Parliament
- Mr. Azouz REBAT (Tunisia) Member of Parliament
- Dr. Ingo SCHOENFELDER (German Democratic Republic) Lecturer Karl Marx University
- Mr. Vasily G. SOLODOVNIKOV (USSR) Chairman of the Russian Palestinian Society
- Mr. Redzo TERZIC (Yugoslavia) Member of Parliament

3. African and European Co-operation in Seeking Effective Measures to Enable the Palestinian People to Attain and Exercise its Inalienable Rights:

- Mr. Lasse BUDTZ (Denmark) Member of Parliament
- Mr. Claude DEJARDIN (Belgium) Member of Parliament

4. The Role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Social, Cultural, Economic and Political Development of the Palestinian People and in the Attainment of its Political Objectives:

- Mr. Khalid EL-HASSAN (Palestinian) Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of the Palestine National Council

5. The Status of the Holy City of Jerusalem:

- Mr. Bülent Akarcalı (Turkey) Member of Parliament
- Mr. Abdelwahab Bouhdiba (Tunisia) Professor, University of Tunis
- Mr. Jerzy Piotrowski (Poland) Member, Polish Institute of International Affairs.

18. The Seminar decided that in view of the depth of analysis contained in the papers presented at the Seminar, and 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 another valuable contribution towards a more objective appraisal of the question of Palestine.

19. On the day preceding the opening of the Seminar, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of PLO, Mr. Yasser Arafat, received the Committee delegation and the panelists and engaged in a frank and cordial discussion. In the course of the discussion, the Chairman of PLO reaffirmed his faith in, and support of, the efforts of all United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine. He also confirmed the solidarity of the Palestinians in the occupied territories behind PLO in their struggle for genuine self-determination. This was confirmed in two successive public opinion polls held in the occupied territories in October and December 1983, when 93 to 95% of the Palestinians polled declared unequivocal support for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

20. The Chairman also explained in detail the repression and taxation without representation being suffered by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as the efforts being deployed by Israel to deny the Palestinian people financial aid channelled through international institutions.

The complete report of the Seminar will be issued as a separate document.

5. North American NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine

The North American Symposium for Non-governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 25-27 June 1984. The North American Symposium was the first in a series of non-governmental symposia and international non-governmental meetings on the question of Palestine in response to General Assembly resolution 38/58 B of 13 December 1983, by which the General Assembly requested the convening of symposia and meetings for non-governmental organizations in different regions of the world in order to heighten awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine.

Sixty-three non-governmental organizations from the North American region participated in the Symposium. In addition 25 experts, mainly members of the academic community, politicians and representatives of non-governmental organizations, had been invited to address the Symposium.

The Symposium was opened by Ambassador Massamba Sarré, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and heard a statement by Zehdi L. Terzi, Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations.

The Symposium was divided into six panels which discussed the following aspects of the question of Palestine:

- Inalienable rights of the Palestinian people;
- Role of North American Churches on the question of Palestine;
- Factors determining policy-making in North America on the Middle East and the question of Palestine;
- Paths to a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East;
- Women and the question of Palestine;
- Strategies for NGO collaboration and networking.

At the conclusion of its three-day session, the Symposium adopted by acclamation the North American Declaration which calls upon the peoples and Governments of the United States and Canada to take definitive steps to secure a just and lasting peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine. The text of the Declaration is reproduced below.

NORTH AMERICAN NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE
United Nations Headquarters, New York

25-27 June 1984

THE NORTH AMERICAN DECLARATION

1. We wish to thank the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights for making this meeting possible.
2. As non-governmental organizations (NGOs), we are particularly grateful to the United Nations for the creation of an NGO liaison staff function, and for the provision of annual NGO meetings.
3. We, the representatives of 60 non-governmental organizations represented at the North American NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, held from 25 to 27 June 1984, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, call upon the peoples and Governments of the United States and Canada to take definitive steps to secure a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine.
4. We wish to voice our support for the United Nations, especially its work to achieve a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine through the implementation of relevant resolutions.
5. We are of the opinion that there exists an international consensus on the elements of such a peace which is reflected in the relevant resolutions and documents of the United Nations and the positions of the majority of the Member States of the United Nations as expressed in the Geneva Declaration on Palestine of 1983.
6. Recent polls have shown that this international consensus is paralleled by an emerging consensus among the peoples of Canada and the United States for such a just peace. The peoples of our two nations are increasingly recognizing that Palestinians, like Israelis, constitute a nation and are endowed with an inalienable right to national self-determination and statehood within historic Palestine. This right means the right to return to Palestine; the right to be represented by their chosen representatives, the Palestine Liberation Organization; and the right to live securely in peace with all the neighbouring states, including Israel.
7. We believe that it is imperative that steps towards peace be taken immediately since the de facto annexation of the West Bank (including Jerusalem) and Gaza by the Government of Israel, is proceeding rapidly and threatens to destroy the possibility of a peace based upon the mutual recognition of the rights of Palestinians, as well as Israelis, to national self-determination. We call on the Government of the United States to declare unequivocally that the 1949 Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of

Civilian Persons In Time of War applies to all territories occupied by Israel in and after 1967; to secure Israeli compliance with the Convention, as the United States is required to do by the terms of the Convention. We are aware that the United States Government and, consequently, the American taxpayer, give more United States aid to Israel than to any other country. Much of it is in the form of grants which do not need to be repaid. This money permits Israel illegally to build and expand existing settlements.

8. It is our belief that all the parties to the conflict should come together in an international peace conference on the Middle East as called for at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in August 1983, and as endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 38/58 C. It is essential that the conference be inclusive and be attended by representatives of Israel and the Palestinians, Palestine Liberation Organization, those Arab States parties to the conflict, the United States and the Soviet Union. Just as General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of November 1947 recognized the right of both peoples to self-determination and statehood, so now should the States Members of the General Assembly reiterate these principles as the basis for a negotiated peace under the auspices of the United Nations.

9. With the intent to further this goal of a just and lasting peace, we representatives of non-governmental organizations will work towards the following, and urge our respective Governments of Canada and the United States to take similar actions:

- (a) Call upon the governments of Canada and the United States for the recognition of the right and just struggle of the Palestinian people under their sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization;
- (b) Promote Palestinian right of self-determination and the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations;
- (c) Work towards an immediate freeze on the construction and expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories;
- (d) Promote the reduction of militarization of this highly volatile region, by refraining from supplying weapons and other means of war. The threat of world war III and the possibility of a nuclear disaster is of great concern;
- (e) Take concrete steps to preserve and protect the human rights of all persons living in Israel and in all territories occupied by Israel;
- (f) Provide protection and assistance to Palestinians who are victims of dispossession and oppression, particularly women and children;

(g) Ensure academic freedom and freedom of cultural expression in the occupied Palestinian and gaza Arab territories, including Jerusalem, with particular attention to the function of universities in these areas;

(h) Urge meetings between religious groups, women's organizations, labour unions, peace groups, human rights groups, and other NGOs with their Israeli and Palestinian counterparts;

(i) Facilitate dialogue among North American Muslims, Christians and Jews concerning the moral and theological basis for a lasting peace in the Middle East;

(j) Encourage meetings between Palestinians and progressive Jewish peace forces within and outside Israel in the hopes of furthering peace and mutual understanding;

(k) Work towards the elimination of discriminatory restrictions on visas for Palestinian leaders to visit the United States and Canada, since such communications among Palestinians, progressive Israelis and the public of the United States and Canada are ingredients in a peaceful resolution of the conflict;

(l) Urge that all American and Canadian NGOs working for peace with justice in the Middle East be accorded the full protection of their rights to freedom of expression and association without fear of surveillance, interception of mail, surreptitious entry, or harassment by the Governments of the United States or Canada, in light of the deplorable Security Bill recently passed by the House of Commons in Canada and the various proposed "anti-terrorist" bills presently posing serious threats to the civil liberties and rights of Canadians and Americans working in support of various human rights struggles;

(m) Work to initiate, particularly among North American women's organizations, a co-ordinated campaign of support on behalf of Palestinian women presently imprisoned and under town and house arrest because of their social and political activities.

(n) Urge NGOs to raise the issue of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in the course of the upcoming electoral campaigns in the United States and Canada;

(o) Urge that UNRWA continue to provide its services to the Palestinians without any decrease or diminution. Cognizant of its mandate we urge the United Nations to re-evaluate and update UNRWA's regulations as to which families and women receive aid. Further, we urge that Governments increase their financial support of UNRWA;

(p) Promote the dissemination of the speech made by Chairman Yasser Arafat at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in September 1983.

10. We urge the United Nations to:

(a) Include, in the mandate of the NGO liaison function of the Division for Palestinian Rights, work on the Decade for Women Conference to be held at Nairobi in 1985. This should facilitate the inclusion and full participation of Palestinian women in that Conference;

(b) Facilitate the North American NGO community in the establishment of a clearinghouse for information on the question of Palestine;

(c) Continue the development of a bi-monthly North American calendar of NGO activities, and facilitate its wide dissemination;

(d) Produce of a comprehensive directory of all NGO organizations working on this issue including those that have not participated in any United Nations activities;

(e) Co-ordinate the development of a guide to resources, "how to" expertise, and action-oriented networking, including the development of a telephone tree for the communication of urgent information.

11. We in turn will create ways for better communication among ourselves and for dissemination of our collective resources, hoping that the formation of North American public opinion can be a joint NGO/United Nations venture.

12. We urge the publication of the proceedings of this Symposium, including the North American Declaration and the statements of the panelists, by the United Nations.

13. We urge the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to convey this resolution to the thirty-ninth General Assembly as part of the Committee's report.

6. International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine

An International Non-Governmental Organization Meeting on the Question of Palestine was held at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 20 to 22 August 1984. The three-day meeting was the second in a series of non-governmental symposia and meetings on this subject in response to General Assembly resolution 38/58 B of 13 December 1983. Ninety-eight non-governmental organizations from all regions and 26 experts from the legal community, the governmental sector and institutions as well as observers from a certain number of Governments, participated in the meeting.

The meeting was officially opened by Ambassador Massamba Sarré, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and heard a statement by Zehdi L. Terzi, Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations. Five panels were established, each being chaired by a moderator from among the experts:

- The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people under international law: activities of NGOs in promoting the awareness of public opinion of those rights;
- Factors determining policy-making in Europe: NGOs' role in influencing that process with regard to the implementation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people;
- Role of religious institutions in the search for a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine;
- Paths to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East; Role of NGOs and models for action;
- Strategies for NGO collaboration and networking: NGO participation in providing support to the just cause of the Palestinian people.

During the three-day discussion, over 60 representatives of NGOs participated in the debate from the floor within the framework of the five panels. In this debate, participants strongly supported the proposal for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations.

The meeting heard an address by Msgr. Hilarion Capucci, Archbishop of Jerusalem, in which he called upon the Jews and Arabs to unite and work together for peace. The meeting concluded its work by adopting a resolution by which the participating NGOs decided to launch a campaign to collect signatures in support of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The text of the resolution is reproduced below.

NGO resolution

1. We wish to thank the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights for making this meeting possible and without whose invaluable assistance our success would have been impaired.
2. As non-governmental organizations (NGOs) we are particularly grateful to the United Nations for the creation of an NGO liaison staff function and for the provision of annual NGO meetings and symposia on the question of Palestine.
3. We consider that the meeting of so many non-governmental organizations as a consequence of United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1983 is essential to the increase of international awareness of the question of Palestine.
4. We, the representatives of 98 NGOs represented at the International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine held from 20 to 22 August 1984 at the United Nations Office at Geneva, call upon all the peoples and all the Governments to take definitive steps to secure a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine.
5. We wish to voice our support for the United Nations, especially its work to achieve a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine through the implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions.
6. We express our concern for the lack of protection of the Palestinian refugees through a United Nations agency, and urge the General Assembly to extend the mandate of the High Commissioner for Refugees to include Palestinian refugees.
7. We reaffirm our support and our commitment to work for the implementation of the 1983 Geneva Declaration on Palestine and the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights.
8. We decide to establish an interim Co-ordinating Committee on Palestine for NGOs as a positive development to further liaison between NGOs and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People through the Division for Palestinian Rights. The names of the organizations on the interim Co-ordinating Committee are attached^{1/}. We request the Committee to ensure that at next year's conference a session shall be devoted to enabling the NGOs to decide on the future structures for their co-operation with the Committee and the Division.
9. Since the United Nations has set aside 29 November each year as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People we call upon all NGOs

to express on that day, by all means available to them, solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination and statehood.

10. We call on the Committee through the Division to disseminate the publicity material, posters and information to all NGOs well in advance of 29 November to ensure that the preparation of our activities can be concluded by September each year.

11. NGOs have decided to launch a campaign to collect signatures from the peoples of the world in support of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East as called for by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine of August 1983 and as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/58 C. It is essential that the Conference be inclusive and be attended by the representatives of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, those Arab States parties to the conflict, the United States and the Soviet Union. Just as General Assembly resolutions recognize the right of both peoples to self-determination and statehood, so now should the States Members of the General Assembly reiterate these principles as the basis for a negotiated peace under the auspices of the United Nations.

12. NGOs accept responsibility to promote within their own countries support for this International Conference and agree to raise this with their own Governments.

13. We call upon the Committee through the Division to assist the NGOs in this most important endeavour by providing administrative facilities and support in order to ensure the success of this petition which will be launched on 29 November 1984 culminating on 29 November 1985 and then to be presented to all the parties involved.

14. We call upon the Committee through the Division to campaign actively in order to bring into the work of solidarity in support of the Palestinian people and into the family of NGOs, new organizations especially from those areas of the world that were not represented at Geneva.

15. We call upon the Committee, through the Division, further to strengthen the network of women working for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. We call for a wide exchange of information, including with the representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization (General Union of Palestinian Women), with special focus on the situation of Palestinian women in preparation for the NGO forum in Nairobi in 1985.

16. We call on the Committee, through the Division to facilitate co-operation and co-ordination of NGOs on a regional basis. EEC NGOs have envisaged during this conference an organization in the near future.

17. NGOs regard as a priority the publication and early distribution of a comprehensive report including all the recommendations for action made by the panelists and the participants at the meeting of the International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine held at Geneva from 20 to 22 August 1984 and we call on the Committee through the Division to accept this responsibility. Such a report should be made available no later than 30 October 1984.

18. We call on the Committee through the Division to provide the international NGO community with a clearing-house for information on the question of Palestine.

19. We call on the Committee through the Division to provide a comprehensive resource guide and directory of all NGOs working on this issue, including those that have not participated in any United Nations activities.

20. We call on the Committee through the Division to expand the bulletin of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights to include a regular section on NGO activity and information.

21. We call on the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to convey the resolution and report of the International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine held in Geneva from 20 to 22 August 1984 to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session as part of the Committee's report.

Notes

1/ The following organizations are members of the interim Co-ordinating Committee: Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (Israel); Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (Israel); Law in the Service of Man (West Bank); Palestine Human Rights Campaign (United States of America); National Council of Churches of Christ (United States of America); Trade Union Friends of Palestine (United Kingdom); French NGO Committee (France); Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee in Association with Soviet Committee of Friendship and Solidarity with the Arab People of Palestine (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics); International Jewish Peace Union; Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation; Arab Lawyers Union; Middle East Council of Churches in Collaboration with the World Council of Churches; World YWCA; International Commission of Jurists; World Peace Council.

7. African regional journalists' encounter on the question of Palestine was held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania

An African regional journalists' encounter on the question of Palestine was held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 28 to 31 August 1984. The purpose of the encounter was to promote better understanding of the question of Palestine among leaders of the media in Africa by bringing them together to meet with experts on the subject. The encounter was organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information in co-operation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The panelists were: Abdul G. Koroma, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations and 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; Zehdi Labib Terzi, Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations; Ahmed Osman, former Egyptian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs; and Amnon Kapeliuk, a leader of the Israeli peace movement and a leading journalist. The subjects discussed were: historical review of the origins of the Palestinian question; The United Nations and the question of Palestine; the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people; and the prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem.

