



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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Contents

1. Action taken by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the **Palestinian** People
2. International Day of Solidarity **with** the Palestinian People
3. United Nations Symposium for Non-governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine
4. The Third Conference of Ministers of Labour of Non-Aligned Countries and Other Developing Countries adopts resolutions on Palestinian Workers and the Status of Jerusalem
5. Non-governmental organizations' activity and information

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

On 26 November 1984, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, drew his urgent attention to the Committee's grave concern at recent reports of renewed acts of repression against Palestinians by the Israeli forces in the occupied Palestinian territories. The full text of the letter is as follows (A/39/692-S/16841):

"As Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to bring to your urgent attention the Committee's grave concern at recent reports of renewed acts of repression against Palestinians, including the shooting of unarmed demonstrators, by the Israeli forces in the occupied Palestinian territories.

"According to news reports in The New York Times, a student at Bir Zeit University, Sharif Khalil Taibe, was killed and six others wounded on 21 November when Israeli troops opened fire on a large crowd of demonstrators in Bir Zeit village. The following day, in Ramallah, Israeli troops again fired into a demonstration by a group of youths, resulting in the death of Bakr Abdullah, a student at the Ramallah Industrial Secondary School, and the wounding of another.

"According to the same reports, another demonstration by a group of women to mourn Mr. Taibe's death was dispersed by troops using tear gas. The troops also forced Palestinian shopkeepers who had closed their stores after the incidents to reopen them.

"Other demonstrations in Jelaila refugee camp near Gaza and in Nablus were also dispersed by Israeli troops.

"These recent events - as well as those that preceded them - are viewed with the utmost concern by the Committee and confirm its belief that Israel is increasingly resorting to drastic repressive measures in order to stifle any expression of opposition to its illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories.

"As the Committee has repeatedly stated, such occupation is in contravention of international law and of the numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council. The repressive measures adopted by the Israeli authorities cannot but aggravate tensions and constitute a constant threat to peace and security in the region.

"I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council."

2. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

On 29 November 1984, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was observed in New York, Geneva and Vienna and several other capitals.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People held two special meetings on 29 November 1984 to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977. Among those who addressed the special meetings were the Chairman of the Committee, The President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Security Council, the observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization on behalf of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of that Organization.

Statements were also made by the Acting Chairman of the Council for Namibia, the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Chairman of the Group of Arab States, the Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, the Chairman of the Group of Latin American States, the Chairman of the Group of Asian States, the Chairman and Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Observer of the League of Arab States.

A number of messages from Heads of State or Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs were read on the occasion by their representatives.

In commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People arranged the screening of the films "Palestinians Do Have Rights", "The Palestinians of 1983", "The Key" and "Under the Israeli Thumb", from 26 to 30 November 1984 at the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium.

At the request of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Palestine Liberation Organization prepared a photo exhibition which was opened on 27 November 1984 the Public Lobby of the General Assembly Building. The exhibit was displayed until 2 December 1984. The theme of the display was "Scenes from Palestine" and "The United Nations and the Question of Palestine."

3. United Nations Symposium for Non-governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine

The United Nations Symposium for Non-governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine was held at Geneva on 3 and 4 November 1984. The Symposium, *inter alia*, appealed for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, attended by all parties to the conflict, including the representatives of Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organization, those Arab States parties to the conflict, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, under auspices of the United Nations as called for by United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

4. The Third Conference of Ministers of Labour of Non-Aligned Countries and Other Developing Countries adopts resolutions on Palestinian Workers and the Status of Jerusalem

The Third Conference of Ministers of Labour of Non-Aligned Countries and Other Developing Countries, held at Managua, Nicaragua, from 10 to 12 May 1984, adopted the following resolutions on the Palestinian workers, the Arab workers in the occupied territories and the workers struggling against Apartheid and the status of Jerusalem (A/39/581-S/16782):

Resolution on the Palestinian workers, the Arab workers in the occupied territories and the workers struggling against apartheid

The Third Conference of Ministers of Labour of Non-Aligned Countries and Other Developing Countries, held at Managua from 10 to 12 May 1984,

Bearing in mind the resolutions of the ILO Conferences of 1974 and 1980 concerning Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, the ILO declaration on apartheid, and the pertinent resolutions of the International Labour Conference and the Labour Commission of the Organization of African Unity,

1. Calls upon ILO to increase the technical assistance provided by it to the Palestinian workers in the Arab occupied territories with the objective of ending their suffering, supporting their resistance and improving their working and living conditions;

2. Appreciates the efforts made by the Director-General of the International Labour Office in submitting an annual report concerning the conditions of the Palestinian and Arab workers in the occupied Arab territories. However, the Conference believes that the efforts should not stop at this point; they should continue throughout the year so as to make Israel abide by the recommendations included in the annual reports;

3. Reaffirms the need for ILO to dedicate one day during the International Labour Conference to support and consolidate the struggle and resistance of the Palestinian people and workers in the Arab occupied territories and put an end to the Zionist occupation;

4. Requests ILO to intensify its technical assistance for the liberation movements in southern Africa that have been recognized by OAU and for the workers' organizations, in order to help them in their struggle against apartheid;

5. Requests the Co-ordinating Group to guarantee follow-up for this resolution.

Draft resolution on the status of Jerusalem presented
by the Group of Arab States

The Third Conference of Ministers of Labour of Non-Aligned Countries and Other Developing Countries, held at Managua from 10 to 12 May 1984,

Reaffirming the resolutions of the conferences and meetings of Heads of State and Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the non-aligned and other developing countries which support the rights and struggle of the Palestinian people, led by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and reaffirming their inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, to exercise self-determination and to establish an independent State in their national territory,

Reaffirming the United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding the city of Jerusalem, particularly resolution 252 (1968), 267 (1969) and 298 (1971), which declared Israel's measures and laws concerning Jerusalem to be illegal and null and void; resolution 476 (1980), in which the Security Council expressed its regret over Israel's persistence in changing the urban nature, the demographic composition, the institutions and the position of the Holy City; and resolution 478 (1980), in which it called upon the States Members of the United Nations that have diplomatic missions in Jerusalem to withdraw those missions from the Holy City,

Reaffirming the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations which recognize the Palestinian people's right to exercise their inalienable national rights, including the right to self-determination without any external interference and their right to independence and sovereignty, and the resolutions concerning Jerusalem - especially resolution 2253 (1967), resolution 2264 (1967), and resolution 35/169 (1980), which strongly deplored the fact that Israel had passed the Basic Law on Jerusalem, which is a violation of international law. The General Assembly also decided to declare null and void all of the legislative and administrative measures adopted by Israel that have changed or seek to change the nature of the Holy City of Jerusalem (especially the Basic Law) and that declare Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel; it considered all those measures illegal and stated that they should be revoked,

Recalling also that resolution 36/120 and resolutions 35/207 and 36/226 of the General Assembly deplored Israel's failure to implement the General Assembly resolutions on Jerusalem and the resolution referring to the revocation of the Israeli measure of making Jerusalem its capital,

1. Strongly condemns Israel for its continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories, for establishing illegal settlements in these territories, destroying housing, for usurping those territories, and for expelling the members of the workers' unions under various pretexts, and calls upon the international community to take all necessary measures to guarantee that the Zionist aggression is terminated and that Israel complies with all relevant decisions and resolutions adopted by the United Nations;

2. Strongly denounces all the Zionist measures undertaken by Israel for the purpose of changing the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem and to make it its capital, and reaffirms that all the legislative and administrative measures taken by Israel to this effect are null and void;

3. Categorically declares that any destructive action that violates the sanctity of the temples and other holy places and their surroundings in Jerusalem or the commission of any other action of this kind aggravates the situation;

4. Strongly denounces the moving of the Embassies of El Salvador and Costa Rica to Jerusalem, as this constitutes a violation not only of the resolutions of the Non-Aligned Movement but also of the resolutions of the United Nations with regard to the status of Jerusalem;

5. Strongly denounces those efforts in the United States to move the United States Embassy to Jerusalem, in violation of resolutions of the Non-Aligned Movement and United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions;

6. Urges all members as well as international organizations and institutions to strictly observe the resolutions of the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council concerning the city of Jerusalem;

7. Calls on the United Nations in particular and international organizations to adopt concrete and effective measures to preserve the juridical character of the city of Jerusalem and to declare as null and void all the measures that Israel has taken in this regard;

8. Strongly endorses the proposal for the observance during the annual International Labour Conference of a Palestine day in support of and in solidarity with the struggle of the workers and peoples of Arab occupied territories to put an end to the Zionist occupation.

5. Non-governmental organizations' activity and information

The Near East Cultural and Educational Foundation of Canada was formally incorporated in mid-September. Among its educational activities is a series of workshops for high school teachers in several Canadian cities, covering aspects of culture, economics and history of the region. The Foundation will publish a newsletter.

The Presbyterian Church USA passed a resolution at its 1984 Assembly affirming its commitment to work for peace, justice, and reconciliation among all parties in the Middle East and to work for an honorable, creative **United States policy in relation to the Middle East peoples.**

To this end the Church has decided to make the Middle East situation a special emphasis for study and advocacy for the two-year period 1985 and 1986, calling on all its governing bodies to stress this emphasis and to assign responsibility either to an existing **Peace-Making Task Force** or to a special Middle East force.

At the International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine, held at Geneva from 20 to 22 August 1984, the 98 participating NGOs established an Interim Co-ordinating Committee 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, in particular with regard to the implementation of the provisions of the resolution of the August meeting.

One of these provisions was for the launching of a campaign to collect signatures from the peoples of the world in support of an international peace conference on the Middle East (see Division for Palestinian Rights, Special NGO Bulletin, November 1984).

This campaign was launched by the members of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee at the United Nations Headquarters in New York where Mr. Ernie Ross, M.P., representative of the Trade Union Friends of Palestine, delivered a message; at the United Nations Office at Geneva, where Ruth Sovik, General Secretary of the World YWCA spoke and at the United Nations Office at Vienna where Hans Peter Kotthaus, Assistant Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation made the introductory statement.

On Saturday, 1 December 1984, a cultural evening was presented at the Arab Social Club, Brooklyn, New York in commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This event was co-sponsored by the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Committee for a Democratic Palestine, Co-ordinating Committee for Palestinian Women's Work, November 29th Committee for Palestine, the Women's Collective on the Middle East, Palestine Aid Society and the Association of Arab-American University Graduates.

