

DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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1. <u>Consideration of the question of Palestine at</u> the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly

The question of Palestine was considered at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly between 6 and 11 December 1984. The debate began with a statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Rapporteur of the Committee introduced the Committee's report (A/39/35).

Sixty-five speakers took part in the general debate. Eight countries explained their votes before the vote and 10 countries explained their votes after the vote on the draft resolutions.

The full text of the Chairman's and Rapporteur's statements are reproduced below (A/39/PV.88).

(Original: French)

<u>Mr. SARRE</u> (Senegal) (Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People) A year ago this Assembly reiterated the appeal of the Geneva Conference for the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East. In endorsing the idea of such a conference, the United Nations General Assembly expressed its will and commitment to the view that peace in the Middle East can be achieved through promoting sincere dialogue among all the parties concerned. This position itself was the result of a dual awareness; awareness of the fact that the path to peace, however long it may be, must give precedence to dialogue over the force of arms; but also awareness particularly of the fact that the time factor is of paramount importance in the search for peace and that, if no action is taken, the international community could be exposed to disastrous consequences in the Middle East region.

Guided by these considerations and by the mandate entrusted to it by resolution 38/58 A and B, of 13 December 1983, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has in the course of the past year focused most of its attention on efforts to promote the convening of the aforementioned conference, thus supplementing the actions taken by the Secretary-General, to whom we wish to pay a tribute for his untiring efforts in the cause of the Palestinian people.

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It will be recalled that in chapter III of the Geneva Programme of Action, which was endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session and whose implementation was entrusted to our Committee, the following is stated <u>inter alia</u>:

"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:

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

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"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 " ($\lambda/39/35$, annex II)

Therefore it is basically within the context of increasing the awareness of the international community and the promotion of the objectives put forward by the Geneva Conference that I wish to place the work of the Committee in presenting this report.

In accordance with resolution 38/58 B, the Committee arranged a symposium of North American non-governmental organizations concerned with the question of Palestine from 25 to 27 June last at United Nations Headquarters. That symposium, which was the first of its kind, had the participation of more than 60 organizations based in the United States and Canada and, after three days of productive debate, it adopted a declaration, which is annexed to the Committee's report.

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In that Declaration - whose obvious interest makes it worthy of our attention - North American non-governmental organizations not only expressed support for the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East but also committed themselves to co-ordinating and stepping up efforts to mobilize their publics and Governments in favour of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to build a Statte within the historic borders of Palestine.

The particularly encouraging results of this symposium led the Committee to organize in Geneva two months later, from 20 to 27 August, an international meeting of non-governmental organizations on the question of Palestine. Some 100 organizations from all over the world participated in that meeting and adopted a resolution which is important for more than one reason. The 102 organizations which participated committed themselves to campaigning in their respective countries in favour of an international conference on peace in the Middle East and to the establishment of an interim co-ordinating committee on Palestine. This is particularly encouraging, as the interim committee is composed of organizations from the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and France, and also and above all from the occupied territories, specifically the West Bank, and Israel.

Another outstanding aspect of the meeting was that the non-governmental organizations decided to launch a campaign to collect signatures from among the peoples of the entire world in favour of convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East. That campaign was launched on 29 November 1984 - the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People - and will end in one year, on 29 November 1985. At the request of the participants in the Geneva meeting, we decided to include their important resolution as an annex to the report of our Committee.

In addition to these activities involving non-governmental organizations, our Committee this year organized the ninth regional United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine, which was held in Tunis from 14 to 17 August 1984. That Seminar brought together parliamentarians and scholars from 17 European and African countries, and resulted in the Tunis appeal to all parliamentarians throughout the world to step up their national action to enable people better to understand the realities of the question of Palestine.

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It is appropriate to stress here that at this critical stage in the efforts of the United Nations to improve the chance of a negotiated solution the support of scholars, parliamentarians and other influential groups is an important element in mobilizing public opinion in favour of the solution sought by the United Nations.

This is only an outline of a few of the most noteworthy activities of the Committee during the past year. There were many other activities by the Department of Public Information and by Committee representatives at various international conferences. I shall not dwell on these, for they are set out clearly in the report.

The international community has come to recognize that the Palestinian question is at the core of the Middle East conflict, and that enjoyment by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights is indispensible for the solution of that problem. Those rights have repeatedly been reaffirmed by the General Assembly, and include the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination without outside interference, its right to national independence and sovereignty, and to establish its own State in Palestine, and the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland from which they have been displaced and uprooted and to regain possession of their property or receive compensation if they do not wish to return. Moreover, acting objectively and on the basis of the realities, the Committee recognized the right to exist of all States of the region.

It will be recalled also that, at the request of the General Assembly, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People drew up a programme for the attainment of these rights, which has been endorsed many times by the General Assembly by an overwhelming majority. However, as everyone knows, the Security Council has been unable to take action on these recommendations owing to the opposition of one of its permanent members. As I have already said, any proposal aimed at solving the Palestinian problem without taking into consideration the essential factors of these recommendations is doomed to failure and would, indeed, perpetuate a situation which imperils international peace and security.

We have reached a critical, decisive stage in the process of restoring Palestinian rights. Each day that passes without progress on the path charted by

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the Committee merely complicates a situation which, unfortunately, is already difficult. The gradual annexation of the illegally occupied territories, the increasingly repressive measures taken against the Palestinian population, and the cycle of violence clearly demonstrate that it is high time to reach a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question.

In its report to the General Assembly at the present session the Committee again reaffirms the validity of its recommendations and requests the General Assembly to insist once more that the Security Council adopt positive measures to implement these recommendations, on which action should have been taken long ago. Moreover, the Committee reaffirms the validity of the recommendations of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held in Geneva in 1983, emphasizing especially that the international community must begin immediately to focus its activities on the necessary preparatious for convening the proposed international conference on peace in the Middle East, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/58 C, with the participation of all the parties concerned.

In this connection I wish to reiterate the Committee's deep appreciation of the contacts initiated by the Secretary-General. While the Committee regrets the negative position of certain countries, it is none the less determined to pursue its efforts to ensure that the conference is convened soon, for it is convinced that the holding of this conference will be an important step towards the settlement of the Palestinian question. We call now on all the parties concerned to rise above emotion and passion and to operate in the achievement of a positive result in the interests of peace and justice.

With that goal in mind, the Committee is particularly encouraged by the massive support given by the international community to the proposal on the convening of the conference, and by the mounting evidence that these recommendations are now better known and understood throughout the world. Other positive factors are the notable increase in interest in the question of Palestine, and the militant support of non-governmental organizations for the Palestinian cause.

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It cannot be repeated too often that the present situation in the Middle East is a constant reminder to the international community of the urgent need to increase efforts to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. There is no better proof of this urgency than the situation which persists in the occupied territories. Today, 17 years after the 1967 occupation, more than a third of the land on the West Bank has been confiscated by the Israeli authorities for the establishment of settlements.

At the same time, Israel is tightening its grip on the water resources of the occupied territories, the use of which by the Palestinian population is limited by harsh restrictions.

As time passes, Israel is transforming the West Bank and Gaza into a pool of cheap labour and an outlet for its products through the restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on the establishment of new industries. This process of stifling the economy of the occupied territories contributes to emptying them of their most educated inhabitants, increases their dependence on Israel and is a denial of everything that might serve as the beginning of a future Palestinian State.

The salvaging of the occupied territories is more than ever inseperable from a political solution of the Palestinian question. Dialogue among all the parties concerned, including, first and foremost, the Palestinian people, is a necessary part of that process.

On 29 November I had an opportunity to say something that I will repeat today: "Peace is one and indivisible".

We consider that at this critical stage it is imperative that efforts be redoubled in order to find a just solution to the question of Palestine and to put an end to the useless and unnecessary suffering of the Palestinian people and others in the region. We appeal to the international community to shoulder its responsibility within the context of dialogue in order to ensure a felicitous solution to this tragedy that has lasted for very nearly 40 years. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People urges you to work to assure that such a dialogue will begin.

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(Original: English)

<u>Mr. GAUCI</u> (Malta) (Rapporteur of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People) My presentation of the 1984 report of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/39/35) in reality symbolizes another year of festering conflict and wrongs unrighted. On the question of Palestine, the time has now come, not so much to speak of many things, but rather to concentrate on a few of the main elements of this tragic issue.

If we really wish, again, to speak of many things, there are enough details in paragraphs 18 to 89 of the report to demonstrate clearly the present disheartening state of affairs. Those paragraphs, as well as other more specific reports referred to therein or presented before the Special Political Committee, contain more than enough evidence to prove conclusively - if any proof were really needed that all is not well in the State of Palestine.

Those same paragraphs also contain enough evidence to convince any objective observer beyond a reasonable doubt that a continuation of the policies currently applied on the spot cannot bring about reconciliation, let alone the peace which the protagonists claim to seek, and for which the Committee, by consensus, has striven strenuously for the past eight years. In doing so, the Committee was only shedding light and concentrating attention on the key issue by furthering almost 40 years of effort by the United Nations to bring about a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

It must in all candour also be admitted that the evidence contained in those paragraphs provides ample ammunition to fuel a heated debate. Regrettable as this may be, it is not, however, what the Committee seeks. An acrimonious round of bitter recrimination, of accusation and counter-accusation, repeated year in and year out, is neither a formula nor a substitute for peace. What is even worse, it provides convenient ammunition for those who contend that seeking a solution through the proposed international peace conference is not likely to succeed, judging by the outcome of the past debates.

The Committee nevertheless has to stress with regret that the contents of the report cannot but reflect the untenable situation on the spot. Truth cannot be suppressed. There is no question that the cycle of violence goes on. In addition, it cannot be denied that many years after the flurry and expectation raised by partial approaches and shuttle diplomacy, the situation remains grim. It can be summed up in a few brief but poignant sentences.

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Small, friendly Lebanon is in turmoil, with much of its territory occupied. Resentment runs riot in the occupied territories, with popular protest being subdued by massive military repression. Violence erupts sporadically. Unperturbed, disdainful of public opinion and legality, and against opposition from within and from without, Israel continues its illegal settlements and annexation policies in the occupied territories, policies which are universally held to be an obstacle to peace.

Peaceful initiatives on the spot are conspicuous by their absence. Instead, the policies of fear, hate and force predominate, lavishly fueled by sophisticated weapons, to the detriment of economic development. To say that this is a bleak background is to put it mildly. To repeat the details is merely to deaden their impact.

Let us therefore stick to the essentials. Is there no ray of hope to pierce this persistent gloom? The Committee believes that there is. The Committee itself has shown the right path, and it must continue its labours until its recommendations are followed through and the goal achieved. Here, very briefly, are the main reasons for our undiminished hope.

First, the recommendations of the Committee, repeatedly endorsed by the General Assembly and subsequently further refined by the Geneva Peace Conference,

are the only - I repeat - the only formula adopted by international consensus which advocates a procedure permitting all the protagonists in the conflict to be involved in the search for a comprehensive solution based on justice and international law.

Secondly, the real nature of the Palestine question is now widely known in all four quarters of the globe, again thanks to the efforts of the Committee. Time and time again, without exception, in all the regions where seminars and symposiums have been organized in the past few years, our audiences - even the most sceptical among them - have been convinced that the recommendations of the Committee stand the most rigid tests of fairness, legality and peaceful scope, overlooking the vital interests of none of the protagonists, and hence likely to last if implemented. The Chairman of the Committee has just provided the highlights of our activities in this field and I need not therefore repeat them.

Thirdly, we have gathered support from hundreds of non-governmental organizations, trade union representatives, journalists and members of the academic community in advocating action and redress for the practical attainment of the rights of the Palestinian people. A spontaneous campaign to obtain signatures favouring peace is already under way.

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Fourthly, and perhaps most important, we are advocating an approach through the Security Council, first bringing about contacts and rapprochement, then promoting a comprehensive solution and subsequently even providing guarantees to ensure its observance if necessary. This laborious procedure is proof enough that the interests of no single party will be overlooked. Those who claim the contrary clearly misunderstand the Committee's approach.

This background provides the positive thinking behind the recommendations of the Committee this year contained in paragraphs 155 to 160 of the report. Those sound and peaceful recommendations stand in marked contrast to the sense of despondency and despair in that volatile and violent region. But in order to succeed, we need the positive contribution of all concerned. As stated in paragraph 160 of the report,

"The Committee ... strongly recommends that international action should henceforth concentrate on the preparations necessary for the convening of this Conference and contribute to its successful and peaceful outcome " (A/39/35,para. 160).

We therefore earnestly trust that all nations in this Assembly will no longer delay in responding to this call and we urge the Secretary-General to pursue the valiant efforts he has already initiated.

In essence, what we would be doing in 1984 is start on the unfinished part of the solution envisaged in 1947. In 1947 the Partition Plan did not enjoy unanimous backing, but one side of the Plan was fully implemented. Many events have taken place in the area since then which have caused changes on the map of the region but have not brought about peace or security. The one event that has not taken place is the most fundamental and enlightened of all: it is the free and unfettered act of self-determination by the Palestinian people. In 1984, therefore, the international backing for this overdue act of self-determination by the Palestinian people is almost unanimous; it obviously provides the essential ingredient of a lasting solution.

So many opportunites in the past have been missed; history provides the record and the events on the spot the evidence. But the window of opportunity is not yet closed. The Assembly this year should ensure that the window remnains opens and encourage the Security Council next year to strive energetically to finalize the necessary preparations for the Conference. All the spadework has been done; all the ingredients of a solution are before the Council awaiting its final touches and backed by its supreme authority. Further delay would be prejudicial to the prospects. It is time to replace reckless rhetoric by sober statesmanship and a specific sense of purpose. As with all problems, if we just put one foot firmly on the ground before the other, keep our heads cool and co-operate spontaneously, we can succeed.

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As my delegation stated when it replied to the note from the Secretary-General concerning the international peace conferences

"The potential benefits of such an approach cannot be over-emphasized. In particular, the present sense of drift and despair in the Middle East could be transformed into an emergetic momentum for a concerted search for peace. That in itself, and by itself, would be a significant development on the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations " (A/39/231, p. 2)

It is, I submit, no longer proper for individual countries to invoke procedural difficulties against a comprehensive approach, which in any case is now not only the outcome of the Committee but also the unanimous recommendation of the Geneva peace Conference. The protagonists themselves need encouragement to overcome inertia. The final solution will need universal backing and effective support - guarantees if need be, not based on the force of arms but on the common benefit of peace. Hard work and long negotiations will be required, but a start and an essential change of direction are necessary now.

The mutual concessions that will be required from Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization to clinch a peace settlement would be more likely to be achieved in a package deal in a comprehensive solution enjoying unanimous and universal support.

Permit me to end by once more acclaiming the leadership and dedidicated service of Ambassador Sarré of Senegal, who has guided us through another year of hard work. I also wish to express my appreciation to all members for their own contribuition and for the assistance they have extended to me in my eight years of rapporteurship of this Committee.

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The following resolutions were adopted at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the question of Palestine (A/RES/39/49):

39/49. Question of Palestine

A

The General Assembly,

<u>Recalling</u> its resolutions 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976, 32/40 of 2 December 1977, 33/28 of 7 December 1978, 34/65 A and B of 29 November 1979 and 34/65 C and D of 12 December 1979, ES-7/2 of 29 July 1980, 35/169 of 15 December 1980, 36/120 of 10 December 1981, ES-7/4 of 28 April 1982, ES-7/5 of 26 June 1982, ES-7/9 of 24 September 1982, 37/86 A of 10 December 1982 and 38/58 A of 13 December 1983,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

1. <u>Expresses its appreciation</u> to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly;

2. <u>Endorses</u> the recommendations of the Committee contained in paragraphs 155 to 160 of its report and draws the attention of the Security Council to the fact that action on the Committee's recommendations, as repeatedly endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session and subsequently, is still awaited;

3. <u>Requests</u> the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine as well as the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate;

4. <u>Authorizes</u> the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the implementation of its recommendations, to send delegations or representatives to international conferences where such representation would be considered by it to be appropriate, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fortieth session and thereafter;

5. <u>Requests</u> the Committee to continue to extend its co-operation to non-governmental organizations in their contribution towards heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine;

6. <u>Requests</u> the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, as well as other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine, to co-operate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation which they have at their disposal;

7. <u>Decides</u> to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate, in accordance with the Committee's programme of implementation;

8. <u>Requests</u> the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its tasks.

<u>95th plenary meeting</u> <u>11 December 1984</u>

B

The General Assembly,

<u>Having considered</u> the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Noting the particularly relevant information contained in paragraphs 125 to 132 of that report,

<u>Recalling</u> its resolutions 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, 33/28 C of 7 December 1978, 34/65 D of 22 December 1979, 35/169 D of 15 December 1980, 36/120 B of 10 December 1981, 37/86 B of 10 December 1982 and 38/58 B of 13 December 1983,

1. Notes with appreciation the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 B;

2. <u>Requests</u> the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continues to discharge the tasks detailed in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 32/40 B, paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 34/65 D, paragraph 3 of resolution 36/120 B and paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 38/58 B, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance;

3. <u>Also requests</u> the Secretary-General to ensure the continued co-operation of the Department of Public Information and other units of the Secretariat in enabling the Division for Palestinian Rights to perform its tasks and in covering adequately the various aspects of the guestion of Palestine;

4. <u>Invites all Governments and organizations to lend their co-operation to</u> the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights in the performance of their tasks;

5. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the action taken by Member States to observe annually on 29 November the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and the issuance by them of special postage stamps for the occasion.

> 95th plenary meeting 11 December 1984

The General Assembly,

<u>Having considered</u> the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Noting, in particular, the information contained in paragraphs 133 to 142 of that report,

Recalling its resolution 38/58 E of 13 December 1983,

<u>Convinced</u> that the world-wide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of non-governmental organizations and institutions remain 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,

1. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the action taken by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 E;

2. <u>Requests</u> that the Department of Public Information, in full co-operation and co-ordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, should:

(<u>a</u>) Continue the implementation of all parts of General Assembly resolution 38/58 E;

(b) Disseminate all information on the activities of the United Nations system relating to Palestine;

(c) Expand and update publications and audio-visual material on the facts and developments pertaining to the question of Palestine;

(d) Publish newsletters and articles in its relevant publications on Israeli violations of the human rights of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories;

(e) Organize fact-finding missions to the area for journalists;

(f) Organize regional and national encounters for journalists.

95th plenary meeting 11 December 1984

С

The General Assembly,

<u>Recalling</u> its resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1984, in which it, <u>inter alia</u>, endorsed the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East,

<u>Reaffirming</u> paragraph 5 of its resolution 38/58 C, in which it requested the Secretary-General to undertake preparatory measures to convene the Conference,

<u>Having considered</u> the reports of the Secretary-General of 13 March and 13 September 1984, in which he stated that, <u>inter alia</u>, "it is clear from the replies of the Governments of Israel and the United States of America that they are not prepared to participate in the proposed Conference",

<u>Reiterating its conviction</u> that the convening of the Conference would constitute a major contribution by the United Nations towards the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General;

2. <u>Reaffirms</u> its endorsement of the call for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C;

3. <u>Expresses its regret</u> at the negative response of the two Governments and calls upon them to reconsider their position towards the Conference;

4. <u>Urges</u> all Governments to make additional constructive efforts and to strengthen their political will in order to convene the Conference without delay and for the achievement of its peaceful objectives:

5. <u>Requests</u> the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Security Council, to continue his efforts with a view to convening the Conference and to report thereon to the General Assembly not later than 15 March 1985;

6. <u>Decides</u> to consider at its fortieth session the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution.

> 95th plenary meeting 11 December 1984

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The results of the vote on the resolutions concerning the Question of Palestine adopted at the thirty-ninth session were as follows:

- Resolution A/39/49 A was adopted by 127 votes in favour, 2 against, with 21 abstentions;
- Resolution A/39/49 B was adopted by 130 votes in favour, 3 against with 17 abstentions;
- Resolution A/39/49 C was adopted by 131 votes in favour, 3 against with 15 abstentions;
- Resolution A/39/49 D:Operative paragraph 2 was adopted by 120 votes in favour, 4 against with 22 abstentions;

Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by 96 in favour, 18 against with 29 abstentions.

The resolution as a whole was adopted by 121 in favour, 3 against with 23 abstentions.

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2. Non-governmental organizations' activity and information

The <u>New Jewish Agenda</u>, composed of Jews from a variety of affiliations and backgrounds, publishes two newsletters: "Agenda" and "Shalom Network".

Their Brooklyn, New York, Chapter indicates that it has a Middle East Work Group which is in the process of initiating contact with the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

In November 1984, in New York City, they co-sponsored talks by Knesset member, Mattityahu Peled (Progressive List for Peace) analysing post-electoral peace prospects. Other sponsors included the America Israel Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, the International Jewish Peace Union and the American-Israeli Civil Liberties Coalition.

<u>Grassroots International</u> and <u>Women for Women in Lebanon</u> have produced a documentary videotape entitled "Beirut: On a Clear Day You Can See Peace". It deals with the human story behind news and headlines through interviews with Lebanese and Palestinian women and men who share the basic elements of their survival and hope. The tape will be widely circulated.

The United Nations Information Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh, reported co-operation from two NGOs in organizing public meetings for the annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The first of these was held on 28 November at the United Nations Information Centre, Dhaka with the <u>Bangladesh Human Rights Youth Council</u> as its organizer. A Palestinian medical student was a featured speaker.

The second function was a discussion meeting organized on 29 November by the <u>World Literature Centre</u> at its own auditorium. The chief speaker was the Adviser for Foreign Affairs to the President of Bangladesh.

The most recent issue of the bulletin published by <u>l'Association</u> <u>France-Palestine</u> features the Palestinian woman. An analysis by Rosemary Sayigh includes information on education, employment and political participation. Mayssoun Wahaydi attempts to give an historical perspective on women under occupation. Other articles cover the activities of working women, woman's changed social role, the predicament of those who are Israeli citizens, the plight of women prisoners and the contribution of women to the arts.

On the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 17 <u>French NGOs</u> organized "Six hours for human rights in the occupied territories of Palestine" on 24 November 1984 in Paris.

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During this event Palestinian personalities who had come from the occupied territories (Rita Giacaman, University of Bir Zeit, and Daoud Kuttab, journalist for <u>Al-Fajr</u>) and Israeli intellectuals (Joseph Algazy, historian and Amnon Zichroni, lawyer) addressed the gathering on the situation of human rights under Israeli occupation.

An advertisement was placed by this French NGO group in <u>Le Monde</u> on 30 November 1984 bringing these matters to the attention of the public.

The Arab Women's Council, dedicated to fostering American understanding of Arab culture and women's role, sponsors educational and informational activities. Recently they have stressed media campaigns and vigils which dramatized the situation of women in Lebanon.

Ongoing activity includes a speakers bureau and cultural events.