



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. Action taken by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	2
2. The Commission on Human Rights adopts resolutions on the question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine	4
3. The North American/Caribbean regional journalists' encounter on the question of Palestine was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 5 to 8 February 1985	13
4. Non-governmental organizations seminar on the question of Palestine	14
5. Non-governmental organizations activity and information	17

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

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in a letter dated 19 March 1985 addressed to the Secretary-General, drew once again his attention to renewed acts of repression by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. The full text of the letter is as follows (A/40/183-S/17043):

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, it is my responsibility to bring once again to your attention the Committee's grave concern at renewed acts of repression by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. Of further concern are recent actions taken by the Government of Israel under its policy of establishing Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"It has come to the attention of the Committee that, according to news items in the Jerusalem Post and The New York Times of 4 March 1985 and Al-Fajr of 8 March 1985, Israeli troops carried out night raids on the two campuses of Bir Zeit University on 1 March, seizing hundreds of posters, books and other materials to be used in a Palestinian cultural exhibit. Fifty-three students and their guests were detained for questioning. Eight of them are still being detained in Fara'a prison in Nablus without charge. Tel Aviv Radio reported on 8 March that still further detentions are expected.

"Immediately after the raids, the Bir Zeit campuses were declared closed military areas and the entrance was barred to all. A week later, as reported by UPI on 11 March, the Military Governor of the occupied West Bank decided to close the new campus of Bir Zeit for a period of two months. The Bir Zeit University Board of Trustees denounced these new Israeli actions as 'a new link in a series of recurrent infringements on academic freedom which aim at obstructing university education and development of the Palestinian Arab society'. The closure reportedly comes at the end of the first semester, causing disruption of the academic schedule, interruption of laboratory experiments and costly delay of the building programme at the university.

"I wish, also, to express the profound concern caused to the Committee by yet further grave action taken by the Israeli Government in flagrant violation of basic human rights. It was reported by the Bethlehem Press Office on 12 March 1985 that 35 youths from the Dheisheh refugee camp, who were arrested on 31 January 1985 during a night raid on the camp, are still being detained for interrogation and without charges by the occupying military Government. Two of the detainees are reported to have been tortured by electronic devices; the others were continually beaten and humiliated. Some 300 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank have been detained at Fara'a prison since January 1985.

"At the same time, the Committee is gravely concerned at the Israeli Government's continued application of the policy of establishing settlements in the occupied territories. On 6 March 1985, Ha'aretz reported that the

Israeli Housing Ministry had begun the construction of three permanent settlements: Azmona, on the Gaza shore; Kaddim, on the northern West Bank; and, Naán in the Jordan Rift Valley. Settlers are already living in temporary accommodations in all three new settlements.

"As on previous occasions, this information is being brought to your attention so that you may be kept informed of the continuing danger to international peace and security posed by the policies of the Israeli Government towards the illegally occupied territories in violation of the resolutions of the United Nations and of its obligation under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"Clearly, a new, resolute approach to the search for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution of the question of Palestine is urgently required. To that end, I wish to reiterate the Committee's firm conviction that the early convening of the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East is of critical importance.

"In conclusion, I wish to request that the text of this letter be distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council."

2. The Commission on Human Rights adopts resolutions on the question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

The Commission on Human Rights at its forty-first session, held from 4 February 1985 to 15 March 1985 (Geneva), adopted the following resolutions on the question of the violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine (E/CN.4/1985/L.11):

"1985/1. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

A

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the principles and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Guided also by the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

"Bearing in mind the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and of other relevant conventions and regulations,

"Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, which defined as an act of aggression 'the invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof',

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions ES-7/2 of 29 July 1980, 37/88 A to G of 10 December 1982, 37/123 A to F of 16 and 20 December 1982, 38/58 A to E of 13 December 1983, 38/79 A to H of 15 December 1983, 39/49 A to D of 11 December 1984 and 39/95 A to H of 14 December 1984 and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions on Israeli violations of the human rights of the population of occupied Arab territories,

"Recalling, in particular, Security Council resolutions 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 468 (1980) of 8 May 1980, 469 (1980) of 20 May 1980, 471 (1980) of 5 June 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980 and 484 (1980) of 19 December 1980,

"Taking note of the reports and resolutions of the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as well as the report of the seminar on

violations of human rights in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel, held at Geneva from 29 November to 3 December 1982, the Geneva Declaration adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine held at Geneva from 29 August to 7 September 1983, and the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories,

"Recalling the International Committee of the Red Cross press release No. 1478 of 13 December 1983 on Israeli violations of the agreement for the exchange of prisoners between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel which involved the retaining of prisoners and detainees whose release was provided for in the agreement,

"Recalling its resolutions 1982/1 A and B of 11 February 1982, 1983/1 A and B and 1983/2 of 15 February 1983 and 1984/1 A and B and 1984/2 of 20 February 1984 on the 'Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine', and previous resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on this subject,

"1. Reaffirms the fact that occupation itself constitutes a fundamental violation of the human rights of the civilian population of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories;

"2. Denounces the continued refusal of Israel to allow the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories access to the occupied territories;

"3. Reiterates the deep alarm expressed by the Special Committee in its reports submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth, thirty-sixth, thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions that Israel's policy in the occupied territories is based on the so-called 'Homeland' doctrine which envisages a monoreligious (Jewish) State that includes territories occupied by Israel since June 1967, and the affirmation by the Special Committee that this policy not only denies the right to self-determination of the population of the occupied territories but also constitutes the source of the continuing and systematic violation of human rights;

"4. Confirms its declaration that Israel's continuous grave breaches of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions are war crimes and an affront to humanity;

"5. Firmly rejects and reiterates its condemnation of Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem and to change the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the occupied territories, including the Holy City, and considers all these measures and their consequences null and void;

"6. Strongly condemns Israel's attempts to subject the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Israeli laws;

"7. Strongly condemns all the terrorist actions perpetrated against the Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories by Jewish gangs, led by Rabbi Meir Kahane, member of the Knesset, and the racist Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the leader of the Gush Emunim gang, and other racist Zionists;

"8. Strongly condemns Israeli policies and practices, administrative and legislative measures to promote and expand the establishment of settler colonies in the occupied territories as well as the following practices:

"(a) The annexation of parts of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem;

"(b) The continuing establishment of new Israeli settlements and expansion of the existing settlements on private and public Arab lands, and the transfer of an alien population thereto;

"(c) The arming of settlers in the occupied territories to commit acts of violence against Arab civilians, and the perpetration of acts of violence by these armed settlers against individuals, causing injury and death and wide-scale damage to Arab property;

"(d) The arming of settlers in the occupied territories to strike at Muslim and Christian religious and holy places;

"(e) The evacuation, deportation, expulsion, displacement and transfer of Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories, the denial of their right to return to their homeland and the transfer and settlement of alien populations brought from other parts of the world in the place of the original Palestinian owners of land;

"(f) The confiscation and expropriation of Arab property in the occupied territories and all other transactions for the acquisition of land involving Israeli authorities, institutions or nationals on the one hand, and inhabitants or institutions of the occupied territories on the other;

"(g) The destruction and demolition of Arab houses;

"(h) Mass arrests, collective punishments, administrative detention and ill-treatment of the Arab population, the torture of persons under detention and the inhuman conditions in prisons;

"(i) The pillaging of archaeological and cultural property;

"(j) The interference with religious freedoms and practices as well as with family rights and customs;

"(k) The systematic Israeli repression of cultural and educational institutions, especially universities, schools and institutes, in the occupied Palestinian territories, closing them or restricting and impeding their academic activities by subjecting selection of courses, textbooks and educational programmes, admission of students and appointment of faculty

members to the control and supervision of the military occupation authorities and by expelling numerous faculty members of several universities for refusing to sign statements containing political positions, in flagrant defiance and disregard of their right to academic freedom;

"(1) The illegal expropriation and exploitation of the natural wealth, water and other resources which belong to the inhabitants of the occupied territories;

"(m) The dismantling of municipal services, dismissing the elected mayors as well as the municipal councils and preventing the flow of Arab aid funds to the population of the occupied territories;

"9. Calls upon Israel to take immediate steps for the return of the displaced Arab inhabitants to their homes and property in Palestine and the other Arab territories occupied since June 1967;

"10. Calls upon the Israeli authorities to implement forthwith Security Council resolution 484 (1980) of 19 December 1980 and previous resolutions calling for the immediate return of the municipal chiefs to their municipalities so that they can resume the functions for which they were elected;

"11. Calls upon Israel to release all Arabs detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle for self-determination and for the liberation of their territories, and, pending their release, to accord them the protection envisaged in the relevant provisions of the international instruments concerning the treatment of prisoners of war, and demands that Israel cease forthwith all acts of torture and ill-treatment of Arab detainees and prisoners;

"12. Condemns Israel for its continued detention of Ziad Abu Ain, and calls on Israel to implement fully the agreement concluded with the International Committee of the Red Cross in November 1983 for the exchange of prisoners between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel; and further calls on Israel to release Ziad Abu Ain and others whom it continues to detain and who were in Ansar Camp, which must be closed under the provisions of the above-mentioned agreement;

"13. Reiterates its call to all States, in particular the States parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, in accordance with article 1 of that Convention, and to international organizations and specialized agencies, not to recognize any changes carried out by Israel in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and to avoid taking any action or extending any aid which might be used by Israel in its pursuit of the policies of annexation and colonization or any other policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

"14. Urges Israel to refrain from the policies and practices violating human rights in the occupied territories, and to report, through the Secretary-General, to the Commission at its forty-second session on the implementation of this resolution;

"15. Requests the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to recommend to the Security Council the adoption against Israel of the measures referred to in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations for its persistent violation of the human rights of the population of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories;

"16. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations and the international humanitarian organizations and to give it the widest possible publicity, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-second session;

"17. Further requests the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Commission all United Nations reports appearing between sessions of the Commission that deal with the situation of the population of those occupied territories;

"18. Decides to place on the provisional agenda of the forty-second session as a matter of high priority the item entitled 'Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine'."

B

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Recalling its resolutions 1982/1 B of 11 February 1982, 1983/1 B of 15 February 1983 and 1984/1 B of 20 February 1984 and General Assembly resolutions 3092 A (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 32/91 A of 13 December 1977, 33/113 A of 18 December 1978, 34/90 B of 12 December 1979, 35/122 A of 11 December 1980, 36/147 A of 16 December 1981, 37/88 of 10 December 1982, 38/79 B of 15 December 1983 and 39/95 D of 14 December 1984,

"Recalling Security Council resolutions 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 468 (1980) of 8 May 1980, 469 (1980) of 20 May 1980, 471 (1980) of 5 June 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980 and 484 (1980) of 19 December 1980,

"Recalling resolution III on the application of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross held at Manila in November 1981,

"Bearing in mind that the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 must be fully applied in all circumstances to all persons protected by those instruments, without any adverse distinction based on the nature or origin of the armed conflict or on the causes espoused by or attributed to the conflict,

"Recognizing that the persistent failure of Israel to apply the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War creates a situation fraught with danger, and considering that it persists in violating human rights,

"Taking into account that States parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War undertake, in accordance with article 1 thereof, not only to respect but also to ensure respect for the Convention in all circumstances,

"1. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War is applicable to all the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"2. Expresses its deep concern at the consequence of Israel's systematic refusal to apply that Convention in all its provisions to Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"3. Condemns the failure of Israel to acknowledge the applicability of that Convention to the territories it has occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"4. Calls upon Israel to abide by and respect the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and rules of international law, in particular the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, in Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 including Jerusalem; requests Israel to release all Arabs detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle for self-determination and the liberation of their territories and to accord them, pending their release, the protection envisaged in the relevant provisions of the international instruments concerning the treatment of prisoners of war; and demands that Israel cease forthwith all acts of torture and ill-treatment of Arab detainees and prisoners;

"5. Urges once more all States parties to that Convention to make every effort to ensure respect for and compliance with the provisions thereof in all the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations, the international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations, and to submit a report on progress in its implementation to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-second session."

"1985/2. Human rights situation in occupied Syrian territory

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Gravely concerned at the fact that Israel is continuing its occupation of the Arab territories, including Palestine and the Syrian Golan Heights, in spite of all the condemnations of Israel that have been expressed due to that occupation,

"Recalling its resolution 1984/2 of 20 February 1984,

"Noting with severe disapproval, having considered the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories,

"Recalling the resolution adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union at its seventy-first session held at Geneva from 2 to 7 April 1984, which condemned all Israeli policies and practices relating to the annexation of occupied Arab territories in Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights,

"Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA 37.26 of 17 May 1984, which condemned Israel for its continuing occupation of the Arab territories, including Palestine, and its continuing arbitrary practices against the Arab population,

"Reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, in which the Assembly defined an act of aggression, inter alia, as 'the invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof' and provided that 'no consideration of whatever nature, whether political, economic, military or otherwise, may serve as a justification for aggression',

"Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981 and General Assembly resolutions 36/226 B of 17 December 1981, ES-9/1 of 5 February 1982, 37/88 E of 10 December 1982, 37/123 A of 16 December 1982, 38/79 D of 15 December 1983 and 39/146 B of 14 December 1984, relating to the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights and the imposition of its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian territory,

"Reaffirming once more that the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War continues to apply to the Syrian territory that has been occupied since 1967,

"1. Resolutely condemns Israel for its persistent failure to comply with, and its defiance of, Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and all other resolutions relating to the Syrian Golan Heights adopted by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies, and strongly deprecates Israel's annexation of the occupied Syrian territory;

"2. Declares once more that Israel's decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, which has resulted in the effective annexation of this territory, is null and void, has no international legal validity or effect, constitutes a grave violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and is an affront to the international community;

"3. Strongly deplores the negative vote and pro-Israeli position of a permanent member of the Security Council which prevented the Council from adopting against Israel, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the 'appropriate measures' referred to in resolution 497 (1981), adopted unanimously by the Security Council;

"4. Deplores the inhuman treatment, terror and practices contrary to human rights which the Israeli occupation authorities continue to apply against Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights by reason of their refusal of Israeli nationality and in order to force them to carry Israeli identity cards, which practices constitute a flagrant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council, the General Assembly and other international bodies and also constitute a threat to peace and international security;

"5. Reaffirms its request to all States Members of the United Nations not to recognize any jurisdiction, laws or measures established by Israel in respect of occupied Syrian and Arab territories;

"6. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to rescind without delay its decision of 14 December 1981 and to cease its acts of terrorism directed against Syrian citizens in occupied Syrian Golan Heights in order to impose Israeli citizenship upon them and force them to carry Israeli identity cards; emphasizes that Israel must allow the evacuees from among the Golan population to return to their homes and to recover their property and residences occupied by Israel since 1967, and firmly emphasizes the overriding necessity of the total and unconditional withdrawal by Israel from all Palestinian and Syrian territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, which is an essential prerequisite for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

"7. Decides to place on the provisional agenda of its forty-second session as a matter of high priority the item entitled 'Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine'."

"1985/41. The situation in southern Lebanon

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"Gravely concerned by Israeli action in southern Lebanon which constitutes a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the principles of international law and the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations,

"1. Strongly condemns Israel for its human rights violations: assassinations, mass arrests among the civilian population, abductions, demolition of houses, desecration of places of worship and other inhuman acts;

"2. Calls on Israel to put an immediate end to such repressive practices and to release persons detained and abducted, and demands the immediate and total withdrawal of Israel from southern Lebanon, in accordance with Security Council resolution 509 (1982) of 6 June 1982;

"3. Calls on those Governments which continue to give Israel economic, political and military aid to put an end to support to Israel which encouraged it to persevere with its policy of aggression, expansion and colonial settlements;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of this resolution and to submit to the General Assembly a report on the results of his efforts in that regard."

3. The North American/Caribbean regional journalists' encounter on the question of Palestine was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 5 to 8 February 1985

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 38/58 E and 39/49 C, the North American/Caribbean regional journalists' encounter on the question of Palestine was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 5 to 8 February 1985. The purpose of the encounter was to promote better understanding of the question of Palestine among leaders of the media by bringing them together to meet with experts on the subject. The panelists were: Mr. David Dharampal Karran, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations, Mr. Zehdi Labib Terzi, Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations, Mr. Paul Findlay, former United States congressman, and Dr. Amnon Kapeliuk, Israeli journalist and a leader of the Peace Movement. Ten journalists from both regions in addition to local journalists participated in the encounter.

The subjects discussed were the same as in previous encounters.

4. Non-governmental organizations seminar on the question of Palestine

A non-governmental organizations seminar was held at Geneva from 4 to 5 March 1985 on the question of Palestine. The following report of the participants, members of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee of non-governmental organizations was approved by the seminar:

"1. We, the group of experts representing members of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations concerned with the Question of Palestine, wish to thank the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for convening this seminar on the question of Palestine. We are honoured by the presence of distinguished members and observers of the Committee present at this seminar.

"2. We also wish to thank the Chief of the Division for Palestinian Rights, Mr. Y. Yogasundram and the NGO Liaisons, Mr. Aubrey Nkomo and Ms. Eileen Schaeffler for their productive work and valuable assistance both in the preparation and execution of this seminar. We believe this seminar marks an important point in constructive interaction between the United Nations and the NGO community concerned with the question of Palestine and we look forward to increasing levels of understanding, appreciation and co-operation.

"3. As members of the ICC we regret that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has been unable to secure the requested position of a liaison officer based in Geneva who, in addition to his regular duties with the Division, would co-ordinate and promote NGO activities that seek to increase public awareness of the facts related to the question of Palestine. We have concluded that the need for such a focus of co-ordination is more urgent now than ever. We urge the Committee to assist us in whatever ways possible in meeting this need. We further request that the Committee work diligently for the promotion of NGO interests as the upcoming United Nations biennium budget is formulated.

"4. Based on the agenda devised by a planning subcommittee, the ICC members participating in this seminar report the following:

"(a) The world-wide signature campaign for NGO support for the proposed International Conference on Peace in the Middle East was successfully launched at various locations on 29 November 1984, the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Three NGO representatives presented the petition at the United Nations commemorations held on that day in New York, Geneva and Vienna. First reports on the campaign's progress are encouraging, but we realize the importance of further promotion and publicity to ensure its success. We plan periodic progress reports with a major review of global efforts at the forthcoming International NGO Meeting.

"(b) We received with great thanks the updated list of NGOs compiled by the Division for Palestinian Rights. We look to the dissemination of a *comprehensive directory of all non-governmental organizations active on the question of Palestine as soon as possible*. We will continue our efforts to identify new groups.

"(c) We NGOs meeting at the seminar concentrated our efforts on the draft agenda for the forthcoming International NGO Meeting. As requested we have made specific suggestions of speakers we think will positively contribute to further understanding of the issue and to individual NGO work around the globe. We are aware of budgetary constraints, but strongly request that both speakers and facilitators of workshops be invited to participate so that our goal of increasing our effectiveness in presenting the facts related to the question of Palestine can be realized. The International Meeting needs this number and type of speaker and facilitator in order to be successful.

"(d) We have been informed that the International Meeting will last three days. We had undertaken our planning with the understanding that a total of five days would be budgeted. We strongly request that in lieu of five days that the meeting last through a fourth day as stipulated on the enclosed agenda.

"(e) We are pledged to work to increase the number of new organizations that will attend the International Meeting and we request that the Committee and the Division assist us by approving new invitees as they are brought to the Committee's attention, thus enlarging the NGO constituency co-operating with the Division.

"(f) One of the clearest conclusions reached during this Seminar is that the initiative for increasing NGO global co-operation, dissemination of NGO literature and communication with the international NGO community concerned with the Question of Palestine lies with the NGO community itself and with the ICC. We call upon the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People through the Division to assist us in every appropriate way in realizing our networking goals. We are determined to cultivate an expanding, world-wide NGO constituency that will emerge as a potent force in the just resolution of the question of Palestine. We believe that we can most effectively express our solidarity with the Palestinian people in this way.

"(g) We thank the Committee for the opportunity to send representatives to serve as panelists at Committee-sponsored Symposia to take place in New Delhi, Dakar and New York to speak on the process of networking among non-governmental organizations and accept the invitations. We have designated Donald Betz of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign of North America to represent us at New Delhi, Dakar and New York.

"(h) In an effort to formalize our structure and to place it within United Nations guidelines governing the relationship between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations Secretariat, we submit the attached proposal. We earnestly look forward to an increasingly effective relationship with the Committee and the Division.

"(i) In light of our increasing responsibilities relative to the International NGO Meeting in September, we decided to convene a meeting in Geneva, 17 to 18 June 1985."

Proposal to structure action of NGOs concerned with the question of Palestine in accordance with paragraph 7 of United Nations document ST/SGB/209 of 21 December 1984, entitled "Policies and procedures governing the relationship between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations Secretariat"

1. The NGOs, international and national, concerned with the question of Palestine, recognized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and invited to the international meetings of NGOs on the Question of Palestine are registered in a Roster established by the above Committee. On this basis these NGOs enjoy consultative status with the aforementioned Committee and form amongst each other a "Conference on NGOs concerned with the Question of Palestine".
2. In order to co-ordinate amongst each other and with the United Nations (Committee and Division) these NGOs elect at their periodical meeting an "International Co-ordination Committee (ICC)".
3. The members of the ICC, individually as well as collectively, shall attend the sessions of the "Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People" as observers.
4. The ICC will submit to the "Conference of NGOs concerned by the Question of Palestine" a draft for Rules to be adopted.
5. The ICC meets periodically at one of the three United Nations centres (New York, Geneva, Vienna).
6. Financial assistance for the activities of the "Conference" and the ICC could be provided by the following sources:
 - The United Nations
 - Subsidies approved by the ICC
 - Voluntary contributions by the NGOs.
7. A co-ordinator equipped with the necessary financial, administrative and technical facilities will head and supervise the secretariat of the ICC.

/...

5. Non-governmental organizations activity and information

The Campaign to collect signatures from the peoples of the world in support of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East, launched on 29 November 1985, has gained momentum. According to a report of ICC of non-governmental organizations (NGOs):

The World Peace Council has published a brochure giving the context within which both the United Nations General Assembly and NGO resolutions have called for such a conference. During February they held a large meeting in Vienna which was addressed by Jesse Jackson. They distributed the brochures at this event.

The Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation had secured 90 signatures from members of the European Parliament.

The Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination has circulated the petition widely, including its contacts in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

The World Young Women's Christian Association sent the petition to its 80 national associations with reference to the Association's agreement at its November 1983 Assembly to take action on the issue of peace in the Middle East.

The Arab Lawyers Union distributed an Arabic translation of the petition to affiliated Bar Associations in various countries. It sponsored the first international conference on the situation of Arab women at which the final resolution committed a network of women to distribute the petition.

The Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding is giving the petition wide circulation.

Trade Union Friends of Palestine have distributed the text to solidarity organizations in the United Kingdom, to their Trade Union affiliates and the British Trade Union Congress. They enlisted the aid of the General Union of Palestinian Students/UK in collecting signatures.

The Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace has thus far collected 1,000 signatures. They are collaborating with the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and the Progressive List for Peace. News of their activities has been carried in the Israeli press as well as an article about the necessity for the Conference.

The Soviet Afro-Asia Solidarity Committee anticipates mass signatures but in their report they stress that the commitment of prominent personalities and organizations is of equal importance.

The International Jewish Peace Union has undertaken to promote the Campaign in coalition with various local organizations, e.g. in the United States, Sweden and Denmark.

In addition, an article entitled "Who needs a Conference?" was published in Israel and Palestine by Uri Avnery.

The National Council of Churches has circulated the petition to member denominations. They will stress the need for signatures from prominent personalities and perhaps run an ad in major newspapers.

The Middle East Council of Churches carried the full text of the petition in its widely circulated Perspectives. They will stress that the uniqueness of the Campaign lies in its diverse auspices.

The World Council of Churches French language news service has covered the Campaign.

United Nations seminar

A two-day seminar was organized, from 4 to 5 March 1985 in Geneva, by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to discuss various aspects of its co-operation with NGOs. The seminar called on the Committee to assist NGOs in their determination to cultivate an expanding, world-wide NGO constituency that would emerge as a potent force in the just resolution of the question of Palestine.

The seminar was organized in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 B that requested the Secretary-General to provide the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat with the necessary resources to accomplish its tasks and to expand its work programme, inter alia, through increased contacts with NGOs and the convening of symposia and meetings for NGOs in different regions in order to heighten awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine.

The 15 experts who attended the seminar reviewed the actions that have been undertaken by the Committee and NGOs with special reference to the progress being accomplished in the signature campaign launched by NGOs on 29 November 1984 calling for an international conference on Palestine.

The seminar also discussed the plans for the international NGO meeting on the question of Palestine scheduled for September 1985, and adopted its provisional agenda.

In his concluding remarks, the leader of the delegation of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People said that the seminar had contributed significantly towards advancing the process of co-operation both among NGOs themselves and between them and the Committee. Above all, he added, the meeting had served to further the Committee's understanding of the extent of the assistance that the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights could render in the attempt to forge an international network of NGOs on the question of Palestine.