



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ELECTS A NEW RAPPORTEUR

The Committee on 29 October 1985 elected George Agius, the new Permanent Representative-designate of Malta, as its Rapporteur, replacing the outgoing Rapporteur, Victor Gauci.

Mr. Gauci, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, had been Rapporteur and Chairman of the Working Group of the Committee since its inception in 1976.

II. THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS THE TUNISIAN COMPLAINT AGAINST
THE ISRAELI AIR ATTACK ON A SUBURB OF TUNIS

The Security Council met on Wednesday, 2 October 1985, at the request of Tunisia, which complained of an Israeli air attack on a suburb of Tunis in which it said more than 50 people were killed and 100 injured.

On 4 October 1985, the Security Council adopted a resolution vigorously condemning the act of armed aggression perpetrated by Israel against Tunisian territory and demanded that Israel refrain from perpetrating such acts of aggression or from the threat to do so. The vote on the text, which became Security Council resolution 573 (1985), was 14 in favour to none against, with 1 abstention (United States of America). The full text of the resolution is as follows:

"Resolution 573 (1985)

"Adopted by the Security Council at its 2615th meeting on
4 October 1985

"The Security Council,

"Having considered the letter dated 1 October 1985 (S/17509) in which Tunisia made a complaint against Israel following the act of aggression which the latter committed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia,

"Having heard the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia,

"Having noted with concern that the Israeli attack has caused heavy loss of human life and extensive material damage,

"Considering that, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations, all Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

/...

"Gravely concerned at the threat to peace and security in the Mediterranean region posed by the air raid perpetrated on 1 October 1985 by Israel in the area of Hammam-Plage, situated in the southern suburb of Tunis,

"Drawing attention to the serious effect which the aggression carried out by Israel and all acts contrary to the Charter cannot but have on any initiative designed to establish an overall, just and lasting peace in the Middle East,

"Considering that the Israeli Government claimed responsibility for the attack as soon as it had been carried out,

"1. Condemns vigorously the act of armed aggression perpetrated by Israel against Tunisian territory in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and norms of conduct;

"2. Demands that Israel refrain from perpetrating such acts of aggression or from the threat to do so;

"3. Urgently requests the States Members of the United Nations to take measures to dissuade Israel from resorting to such acts against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States;

"4. Considers that Tunisia has the right to appropriate reparations as a result of the loss of human life and material damage which it has suffered and for which Israel has claimed responsibility;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to it on the implementation of this resolution by 30 November 1985 at the latest;

"6. Decides to remain seized of the matter."

III. SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED BY THE MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO THE FORTIETH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HELD IN NEW YORK ON 1 OCTOBER 1985

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Non-Aligned Countries to the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, meeting in New York on 1 October 1985, noted with indignation and grave concern the serious acts of aggression perpetrated by Israel and South Africa on the eve of this meeting.

They strongly condemned Israel for its barbaric, cold-blooded and totally unjustified attack on Tunisia, in flagrant violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The target of the attack was the premises of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in a vain attempt to destroy the heroic Palestinian resistance. They expressed deep distress at the heavy loss of life among Tunisian and Palestinian civilians and damage to property and affirmed their sympathy, solidarity and support to the Government and people of Tunisia and the PLO in the face of this aggression.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation likewise strongly condemned the racist régime of South Africa for its latest aggression against the People's Republic of Angola, which only offers further evidence of Pretoria's policy of destabilization and subversion in the region and repeated violation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of front-line African States, as well as its use of the illegally occupied territory of Namibia as a springboard for such aggression. They reaffirmed their steadfast support and solidarity with the Government and people of Angola in their heroic efforts to resist South African aggression and consolidate their independence.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation declared that the latest instances of aggression by South Africa and Israel further testify to the arrogance and intransigence of those régimes and their utter lack of respect for the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and all norms of international law. They urged the Security Council to meet urgently to deal with the serious threats to peace and security posed by these acts of aggression and renewed the call repeatedly made by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa and Israel, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. 1/

IV. STATEMENT ADOPTED BY THE EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ARAB GROUP ON 1 OCTOBER 1985

The Arab Ministers for Foreign Affairs convened an extraordinary meeting of the Arab Group at the United Nations, at which they considered the criminal Israeli aggression against the Republic of Tunisia that claimed as victims a large number of innocent civilians, comprising both members of the Tunisian people and Palestinian residents in Tunisian territory.

The Ministers strongly condemned this blatant aggression, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law and a direct threat to peace and security in the region and to international peace and security.

The Ministers expressed their full solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Tunisia in facing up to this wicked aggression that was directed against the sovereignty, integrity and security of a fraternal Arab State and a Member of the United Nations.

The Ministers called upon the international community to assist the Republic of Tunisia in all areas in facing up to the Israeli aggression and its consequences.

They also approved a number of appropriate measures, based on the principles of brotherhood, Arab solidarity and joint commitment to Arab and international instruments. They further decided to support Tunisia's request that the Security Council should be called upon to hold an immediate meeting to discuss this aggression and urged the Security Council to adopt the necessary effective resolutions to condemn and curb this aggression. 2/

V. DECLARATION ADOPTED IN LUXEMBOURG ON 1 OCTOBER 1985 BY THE
MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Ten and of Spain and Portugal, meeting in the context of European political co-operation, strongly condemn the bombing of PLO headquarters in Tunis by the Israeli air force, which is a violation of the sovereignty of a friendly, peaceful and moderate country and constitutes a new factor in the cycle of violence and counter-violence in the Middle East.

While also condemning the terrorist acts that have been committed against Israeli citizens, they take the view that such acts do not justify this action.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Ten and of Spain and Portugal hope that this further escalation of the violence will not undermine the efforts that are under way aimed at bringing about a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict. 3/

VI. PARAGRAPH IN THE DECLARATION OF THE WARSAW TREATY MEMBER
STATES ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM

The participants in the meeting voiced their firm conviction that a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem can be achieved only with the collective efforts of all the parties concerned on the basis of a complete withdrawal of the Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, implementation of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including its right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State of its own and guarantees for the right of all States in that region to independent existence and development. An international conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices and with the participation of all the parties concerned, the Palestine Liberation Organization included, would be a practical way to that. The strengthening of the unity of the Arab countries and the Palestinian movement would be conducive to a settlement of the Middle East problems. 4/

VII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITY AND INFORMATION

1. The America-Israel Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace and New Jewish Agenda jointly sponsored a speaking tour in the United States from 10 October to 1 November for Meir Merhav, Economic Editor of The Jerusalem Post. His presentation stressed the need for the inclusion of the PLO in any dialogue in which Israel engages as a part of the search for a settlement of the Middle East conflict.
2. The Austrian Committee to Save the Government Hospital in Jerusalem has done an analysis of the causes of the closing of this hospital on 29 July 1985 in a brochure entitled "A Fight of Many Levels - The Battle for the Government Hospital in Jerusalem". They have launched a public opinion campaign aimed at eliciting

protest to the Israeli Government pointing out the need for this East Jerusalem facility.

3. The Dutch Palestinian Committee, which aims at educating the public regarding the Palestine question, has issued several publications, including Palestijns Hoger Ondenwijs as well as its newsletter which outlined various aspects of the situation of the Palestinian people and efforts to elicit Dutch response in confronting this reality.

4. The French-based Jewish Arab Perspectives has issued a publication which is aimed at developing Jewish-Arab dialogue, with sensitivity to the particular viewpoints of oriental Jews in Israel. They reach a broad spectrum of nationalities and perspectives.

5. The Institute for Palestine Studies in Washington, D.C. has issued a photographic history of the Palestinians, 1876-1948, entitled "Before their Diaspora" with an introduction and commentary by Wahid Khalidi.

6. The Finnish-Arab Friendship Society is a solidarity group working for a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question.

Among its activities is the assistance of popular Palestinian organizations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

7. Events to commemorate the massacres at Sabra and Shatila were sponsored by Peace Tuesday project in Southern California and the November 29th Committee for Palestine in New York.

8. Mobilization for Survival has produced a 52-minute slide-tape show entitled "From the West Bank to Armageddon" as a part of its continuing programme of education concerning issues threatening world peace.

9. The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee held its National Convention (5-8 September) in Washington, D.C. Among featured speakers were Tom Brokaw of the National Broadcasting Company and Raymonda Tawil, Palestinian author. There was a live television interview with Chairman Yasir Arafat and Vanessa Redgrave.

Notes

1/ A/40/699-S/17518.

2/ S/17514.

3/ A/40/700-S/17520.

4/ A/C.1/40/7, annex.
