



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 13 November 1985, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Committee brought to his attention recent action taken by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians in the occupied territories as a result of the decision to reinstate policies of administrative detention for up to six months without trial, deportation of persons considered security risks and other measures. The full text of the letter is as follows:

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to bring to your attention recent information concerning action taken by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians in the occupied territories as a result of the decision to reinstate policies of administrative detention for up to six months without trial, deportation of persons who are considered 'security risks', increased censorship and other measures.

"According to Ha'aretz and the Jerusalem Post of 29 October 1985 and Al-Fajr of 1 November 1985, the Israel Defence Forces Command in the occupied West Bank issued deportation orders on 28 October against four well-known Palestinian activists from the West Bank. They are Ali Abu Hilal, member of the Executive Committee of the General Confederation of Palestinian Trade Unions; Dr. Azmi Al-Shuiabi, a dentist and elected member of the El-Bireh Municipal Council (dissolved by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1982); Hassan Abdul Jawad Farrarjeh, a journalist and head of the Dheisheh refugee camp Youth Centre (closed by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1983); and Zaki Muhammad Abu Steiteh, a former political prisoner released in the May 1985 prisoner exchange.

'According to Al-Fajr, those deportations, if carried out, would bring to 25 the number of Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories since the summer. The intended deportations have been protested by numerous groups and individuals both in Israel and abroad.

"Meanwhile, arrests without charge have continued and it is estimated that 104 people have now been so detained. Al-Fajr reported on 25 October 1985 that the Israeli authorities had arrested five persons, mainly trade unionists and students, from Nablus, Abu Dis, near Jerusalem, and the town of Dura in the Hebron district.

"In protest against detention without charge, all Palestinian administrative detainees went on hunger strike on 14 October 1985, according to Al-Fajr of 18 October 1985. Al-Fajr reported further

on 25 October 1985 that relatives of the detainees had held sit-in protests in three Red Cross offices in various towns, demanding that the administrative detention orders be cancelled and expressing concern over bad conditions in the prisons. These complaints were supported by four members of the Israeli Knesset.

"It was further reported in Ha'aretz of 28 October 1985 that on 25 October Israel Defence Forces had placed the Palestinian town of Yatta under curfew for 60 hours and conducted door-to-door searches after which two houses were destroyed and several people were arrested.

"Ha'aretz of 18 October reported that the Israeli censor had banned distribution for two weeks of the weekly magazine Al-Bayader. According to Al-Fajr of 15 October, the Arab Journalists' Association had charged at a press conference that Israel was engaged in a campaign to silence the Arab press. This had included the closure of the Al-Manar press office and the newspaper Al-Darb, as well as the administrative detention of five journalists and the placement of three others under town arrest.

"I bring these developments to your attention in order that you may be kept abreast of the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People wishes to reiterate that such measures are in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the fourth Geneva Convention and the United Nations resolutions regarding the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and pose a serious obstacle to international efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution of the Palestine question, the core of the Middle East conflict.

"In conclusion, I would like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council." 1/

II. PARAGRAPHS ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED
BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF COMMONWEALTH STATES AT THEIR
SUMMIT, HELD AT NASSAU FROM 16 TO 22 OCTOBER 1985

The following paragraphs on the question of the Middle East were adopted in the communiqué:

"Heads of Government noted with deep concern that the tensions arising from the unresolved problems of the Middle East, especially the Palestinian issue, continued to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. They stressed the need to intensify efforts to achieve a settlement on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied since 1967 and recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to a national homeland, as well as the rights of all states in the region to live in peace within secure borders. They hoped that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of February 1985 would assist progress towards a framework for durable peace. Most heads of Government reaffirmed their view that the Palestinian Liberation Organization, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, must be involved on an equal footing in negotiations for a settlement.

"Heads of Government expressed their deep concern at the violence which continues in various areas of Lebanon and reaffirmed their support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon and for the efforts of the Lebanese Government and people to restore stability and peace to their country." 2/

III. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On Friday, 29 November 1985, 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 special meetings on 29 November 1985 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.

The Chairman of the Committee made an opening statement. Statements were made by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Vice-President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, the representative of the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the representative of the Chairman of the Group of Arab States, the Chairman of the Group of African States,

the Chairman of the Group of Asian States, the Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, the representative of the Chairman of the Group of Latin American States and the Observer for 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 had arranged the screening of a series of films in the week beginning 25 November 1985, in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library 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 had prepared an exhibition displayed in the Public Lobby at the United Nations Headquarters from Friday, 29 November to Thursday, 5 December 1985.

IV. PARAGRAPHS ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE IN THE FINAL POLITICAL DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, HELD AT LUANDA FROM 4 TO 7 SEPTEMBER 1985

The following paragraphs on the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine were adopted in the Final Political Declaration:

"Situation in the Middle East

"The Ministers expressed concern over the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East caused by Israel's continued practice of aggressive and expansionist policies in the region, which poses a grave threat to international peace and security.

"They reaffirmed the active solidarity of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries with the Arab countries victims of Israeli aggression and with the just struggle of the Palestinian people,

under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), its sole and legitimate representative for the restoration of their usurped national rights and the recovery of the occupied territories.

"They reaffirmed that the question of Palestine is the core of the Middle East crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict and that both issues are dialectically interrelated. In view of this they cannot be resolved separately or partially for the achievement of a comprehensive and just political solution to the situation in the Middle East.

"The Ministers emphasized that a just and comprehensive peace in the region can only be based on Israel's total and unconditional withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and the restoration of all inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return to their homeland, the right to self-determination without foreign intervention and the right to establish their own independent and sovereign States on their national territory.

"The Ministers strongly condemned the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, the Judaization of Jerusalem and its proclamation as the capital of the Zionist State and reaffirmed that all measures carried out by Israel aiming to alter the political, cultural, religious, demographic and other features in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories are illegal and null and void.

"The Ministers of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed that Israel's decision taken on 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Syrian Arab Golan Heights is null and void and is invalid. It is also considered an act of aggression under provisions of Article 39 of the United Nations Charter.

"The Ministers condemn anew Israel's insistence on its continuing occupation of the Golan Heights and its non-implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, in flagrant violation of the provisions of the Hague Convention of 1907 and the 1949 Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War.

"The Ministers called upon the Security Council to take effective measures, including the imposition on Israel of sanctions provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter, in order to achieve the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Syrian Arab territories.

"They reiterate their total support for the struggle of the Syrian Arab Republic for liberating its occupied lands.

"The Ministers strongly denounced Israel's exploitation of the natural resources and wealth of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories in defiance of the Hague and Geneva Conventions on the principle of permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources and wealth, and called upon all States and international bodies to abstain from recognizing Israel's authority and to refrain from any co-operation with it.

"The Ministers denounced the establishment of a 'strategic alliance' between the United States of America and Israel, and affirmed that the alliance would enhance the aggressive, expansionist and destabilizing role of the régime of Tel Aviv, a role which posed a serious threat to international stability, peace and security in the Middle East.

"The Ministers endorsed the conclusions and agreements reached by the seventh summit Conference condemning all such policies, in particular, the United States policy that assists Israel to pursue its occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and prevents the Palestinian people from exercising their inalienable rights. In this regard, the Ministers observed that the United States continues to support Israel in many areas, particularly by establishing a free zone agreement for mutual co-operation within the framework of their 'strategic alliance' which threatens the security of the region and the world, and confirms the total bias of the United States in favour of Israel.

"The Ministers reaffirmed their adherence to the resolution adopted at the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983, urging non-aligned countries to work for a boycott of Israel in the diplomatic, economic, military and cultural fields and in the sphere of maritime and air transport and called upon the Security Council to enforce the provisions of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, in order to oblige Israel to put an end to its occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories and to enable the Palestinian people to recover their national rights, in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People adopted by the General Assembly.

"The Ministers stressed the urgent need to organize the International Conference on the Establishment of Peace in the Middle East, in conformity with paragraph 6 of the Geneva Declaration and General Assembly resolution 38/58 of 13 December 1983, in order to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem, based essentially on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the right to establish an independent and sovereign Palestinian State in its homeland, Palestine, in conformity with the General Assembly resolutions 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and ES-7/2 of 29 June 1980.

The Ministers emphasized that the participation in the Conference of all parties directly concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict including the PLO and the permanent members of the United Nations and the Security Council will be a sine qua non condition for the attainment of the objectives sought by the Conference.

"The Ministers stressed the Security Council's responsibilities in providing an adequate institutional framework for guaranteeing compliance with agreements stemming from the Conference, and condemned the negative United States and Israeli attitude towards it.

"The Ministers expressed their full support for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East aimed at reducing tensions and increasing security in the region, in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolution S-10/12. In view of this, they appealed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to adopt concrete measures in order to establish favourable conditions for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

"Question of Palestine

"The Ministers reaffirmed that the Zionist occupation of Palestine and the brutal repression and oppression exercised against the Palestinian people, as well as the Israeli aggressive and expansionist policies and practices are the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The Ministers emphasized that a comprehensive, just and durable solution to the situation in the Middle East cannot be achieved without the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the regaining and exercise of all the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return to their homes, the right to self-determination without external influence, and the right to national independence, and the right to establish a sovereign and independent State in Palestine, in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions.

"The Meeting reaffirmed its firm support for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that the PLO alone has the full right to represent the Palestinian people. They affirmed the right of the PLO to participate on an independent and equal footing according to international law - in all endeavours, international conferences and

activities whose objectives are to ensure respect for and the attainment and exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

"They further reaffirmed their strict adherence to the principles of non-interference and non-intervention in the internal and external affairs of the Palestinian people and the right of the PLO to free and independent decision-making.

"The Ministers welcomed the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council, including the seventeenth session, held at Amman, from 22 to 29 November 1984, which reaffirmed its strict adherence to the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the legitimacy of the struggle waged under the leadership of the PLO. They made an appeal for additional support to this struggle and towards the escalation and intensification of armed struggle against the forces of Zionist occupation.

"The Ministers expressed concern over the fact that the Palestinians and other Arabs living in the Israeli occupied territories lack all forms of legal protection and are victims of a repressive legislation, including arbitrary mass arrests, torture, displacement or persons and their expulsion, destruction of homes, in flagrant violation of their human rights and constitute a flagrant violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"The Ministers condemned Israel for its denial of the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and properties in Palestine and for preventing them from exercising this inalienable right.

"They expressed their most profound concern over the situation in the Palestinian refugee camps. They re-emphasized the need to secure guarantees for protecting the safety of Palestinians in region of armed conflict resulting from the Israeli invasion and occupation.

"The Ministers condemned the United States and Israeli campaign to destroy the infrastructure of the PLO and to 'eliminate' the Palestinian freedom-fighters.

"The Ministers considered that the attainment and exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, as defined in the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 3236 (XXIX) and ES-7/2 of 22 November 1974 and 29 June 1980, respectively, and that Israel's total, immediate and unconditional withdrawal from all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, would contribute to the re-establishment of legality in international relations and the strengthening of the process of democratization, and to the establishment of peace and stability in the Middle East. To this effect the Ministers reiterated their call for a speedy implementation

of Assembly resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1983 and stressed anew the necessity for the early convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, emphasizing the major responsibility shouldered by the Security Council in facilitating the convening of the Conference and providing the appropriate institutional arrangements to guarantee implementation of the expected agreements of the peace conference. The Ministers condemned the negative attitude of Israel and the United States towards the peace process and expressed the hope that the United States would reconsider this negative attitude.

"In this context the Ministers decided to call for convening a meeting of the Security Council to consider the situation in the Middle East including the question of Palestine during the early part of the fortieth session of the General Assembly and expressed the hope that the foreign ministers of non-aligned countries and other heads of delegation would participate in the meeting.

"The Ministers stressed that every encouragement and support should be extended to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to pursue his consultations and endeavours for the convening of the Conference. The Ministers expressed their appreciation of the endeavours of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the General Assembly.

"They expressed total support to these endeavours as undertaken through the convening of seminars, symposia, and missions to States members of the Security Council with the specific aim to promote the convening of the Conference.

"The Ministers reaffirmed their rejection of all Israeli policies and practices aimed at altering the geographic features of the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, or altering the demographic structure therein, particularly Israel's plans to displace and transfer Palestinian refugee camps to new sites. They reiterated their demand to all nations not to recognize such alterations and to cease and sever any co-operation with Israel that may encourage it to pursue its policies and practices in violation of Security Council resolution 465 (1980).

"The Ministers reaffirmed their adherence to the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries convened from 7 to 12 March 1983 at New Delhi on urgent action by the non-aligned countries for the boycott of Israel in the diplomatic, economic, military and cultural fields and the area of sea and air traffic and also urging the Security Council to apply Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter against Israel.

"The Ministers, further, urged all States to refrain from any co-operation with the Zionist régime that might encourage it to continue pursuing its policy of state terrorism and the commission of terrorist and expansionist acts against its neighboring countries.

"The Ministers reiterated the decisions of the seventh summit condemning all those policies, in particular the United States policy, that help Israel to continue occupying the Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and deny the Palestinian people their inalienable rights and prevent them from exercising those rights.

"In this respect the Ministers observed that the United States continues to support Israel in several areas, especially through the mutual co-operation agreement within the framework of their 'strategic alliance', and the granting of free-trade zone facilities to Israeli products on United States markets. Such acts threaten the security and economic stability of the region and the world and confirm the total bias of the United States in favour of Israel and confirm its hostility to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

"The Ministers stressed the urgent need for all States to adopt appropriate measures to counter the threat posed by Israel to Africa's regional security, taking into account its close co-operation with the apartheid régime in South Africa in the military, economic and nuclear fields, which contributes to perpetuate the illegal occupation of Namibia and strengthens the aggressive and repressive means of the criminal apartheid régime against the peoples of South Africa.

"The Ministers expressed anew their support of the Arab peace plan adopted by the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference at Fez from 6 to 12 September 1982, as reaffirmed by the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference held at Casablanca from 7 to 9 August 1985. They further affirmed their support for the resolutions of the Arab and international conferences which were adopted in support for the peace plan.

"The Ministers reiterated their full support for the efforts of the PLO, the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Movement's Committee on Palestine in their efforts to achieve a just solution to the question of Palestine." 3/

V. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITY AND INFORMATION

1. The November 29 Committee for Palestine sponsored an event to celebrate

the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November in New York City. In addition to solidarity messages and cultural expressions, Dr. Gabi Baramki, Vice-President of Bir Zeit University, gave an update on the denial of academic freedom in occupied Palestinian territories.

2. The Middle East American Book Center (DAT.) sponsored a dialogue between Professor Edward Said and Professor Rashid Khalidi, both of Columbia University, entitled "Middle East update on Palestinians today". It was held at the Church Center for the United Nations on 29 October 1985.

3. The Association of Arab-American University Graduates held its annual convention in Chicago, Illinois, from 7 to 10 November 1985. The theme was "New directions for the Arab world, Arab-Americans and the Palestinian issue". Speakers covered a broad range of topics:

"Arab women and issues of national liberation" was addressed by Aida Farrag Graff, Dean of Women, University of Toronto, Canada and Bayan Al-Hout, General Union of Palestinian Women, Lebanon.

"Human conditions in Israeli-occupied territories" was outlined by Raja Shehadeh, Co-Director of Law in the Service of Man, Ramallah and Hatem Abu Ghazaleh, Chairman, Society for the Care of Handicapped Children, Gaza.

"Co-ordinating strategies for Arab-American organizations" was discussed by a panel of their officers.

"Policy options for the Palestinians" was covered by a series of speakers including members of the Palestine National Council.

4. The General Union of Palestinians Students (U.S.A.) has commenced publication of a series of information papers.

Notes

1/ A/40/889-S/17630.

2/ A/40/817, annex.

3/ A/40/854-S/17610 and Corr.1, annex, paras. 135-171.
