



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE RE-LECTS ITS OFFICERS

At its first meeting in 1986 on 16 January, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People unanimously re-elected Mr. Massamba Sarré of Senegal as Chairman, Mr. Oscar Oramas-Oliva of Cuba and Mr. Mohammad Farid Zarif of Afghanistan as Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. George Agius of Malta as Rapporteur. The Secretary-General opened the meeting and made the following statement:

"Let me begin by wishing you all a happy New Year. May it be a year in which your Committee will carry out its many tasks with success.

"To Mr. Massamba Sarré, I extend my warmest congratulations on his unanimous re-election as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. It is an expression of the Committee's confidence in his dedication and qualities of leadership as well as an acknowledgement of his unflagging efforts over the past five years for the attainment of the rights of the Palestinian people. My congratulations go also to the other members of the Bureau elected today.

"At its fortieth session, the General Assembly has once again entrusted the Committee with a difficult and sensitive task: to promote the implementation of its own recommendations and of those adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held in Geneva in 1983, and to heighten international awareness of the question of Palestine. The growing international understanding of, and support for, the just cause of the Palestinian people is due in no small measure to the efforts of this Committee.

"In the years that have passed since 1947, when the United Nations was first seized with the question of Palestine, persistent efforts have been made by the world community to find a solution to this problem. Unfortunately, the problem is still unsolved and remains to this day, after almost four decades, on the agenda of the General Assembly; and time and again events inside and outside the region have served to exacerbate tensions and put further obstacles in the path of peace.

"However, we are all only too well aware that lack of success so far should not make us despair. It remains our duty to continue to seek a just solution to the question of Palestine, without which there can be no lasting peace in the Middle East. It is more important than ever that the international community exert all possible efforts to find a way out of the present impasse and to put an end to the all-too-frequent outbreaks of violence and the ever-present threat of a more widespread conflict by ensuring justice for the Palestinian people and peace and security for all States in the region.

"In recent years, several peace proposals have been made in this regard. Although those proposals have been, for various reasons, unacceptable to one or another of the parties concerned, they all contain important elements that could promote a process leading to a negotiated solution. It is my earnest hope that in the year 1986, which has been designated the International Year of Peace by the General Assembly, we will achieve real progress in our continuous search for a just and durable solution to the problem in the Middle East. To that end every effort must be made by us to explore how the United Nations machinery can be used in an optimal way to contribute to the peace process.

"While the efforts to achieve such a solution are continuing, the United Nations Organization has acknowledged its responsibility to seek to reduce the suffering of the Palestinian people through a programme of economic and social assistance, as requested by the General Assembly in co-ordination with the host countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization. The work already undertaken in this direction will be continued to the extent possible.

"Mr. Chairman, the responsibilities assigned by the General Assembly to your Committee mean that your programme of work in the year ahead will again be a very heavy one. I wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm to you and to the Committee my support and that of the Secretariat in carrying out your important and difficult task." 1/

At that meeting, the Chairman of the Committee also made a statement and the programme of work for 1986 was discussed. The Committee also re-established its open-ended Working Group.

At its first meeting, held on 17 January 1986, the Working Group re-elected Mr. George Agius of Malta as Chairman and Ms. Savitri Kunadi of India as Vice-Chairwoman. The Working Group considered the programme of work of the Committee for 1986. At a subsequent meeting, the Working Group recommended a programme of work for the Committee.

The Committee met again on 29 January and adopted its programme of work for 1986.

As in 1985, the Committee decided that during the year 1986 it would maintain its past activities and increase its contacts and co-operation with Governments and with non-governmental organizations in intensified efforts towards greater and more positive international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine. Furthermore, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/96 D the Committee decided that, in its activities during 1986, it would continue, as a matter of priority, to exert all efforts to promote the early convening of the proposed International Peace Conference on the Middle East, while urging the understanding and further co-operation of all concerned for the resolution of a problem of such fundamental importance to the maintenance of international peace and security.

In accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 40/96 A, the Committee will continue to monitor events directly relating to the Question of Palestine and to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and through its Chairman, to convey its considered views on such developments to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate. As in the past, the Bureau may, whenever urgent action is required, through its Chairman, draw the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Assembly or of the Security Council to developments affecting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

In response to paragraph 4 of resolution 40/96 A, the Committee decided to request that a letter be addressed by the Secretary-General to all Member States emphasizing the need for positive action with regard to the holding of the proposed International Peace Conference on the Middle East and reiterating the receptiveness of the Committee to participation and suggestions by all Member States in carrying out its work.

Also with reference to paragraph 4 of resolution 40/96 A, the Committee decided that it intended to complete the process of sending delegations to the capitals of the members of the Security Council. The Committee's decision was that in the biennium delegations should be sent to Australia, Denmark, France, the United Kingdom and the United States. Arrangements for these visits will be decided in due course.

In the normal rotation, seminars are due to be held in 1986 in Europe, Africa and North America.

The Government of Turkey has kindly consented to provide the venue for the European seminar and has agreed to the dates proposed by the Committee, namely 7 to 11 April 1986.

The topics for the European seminar will be as follows:

- (a) The International Peace Conference on the Middle East, the need for such a conference; efforts and prospects to promote a successful outcome and benefits thereof;
- (b) The role of the Palestine Liberation Organization;
- (c) The question of Palestine and European public opinion;
- (d) The United Nations and the question of Palestine.

The same topics will also be addressed in the other regional seminars, together with other possible topics yet to be decided that might be of particular relevance to the region concerned.

With regard to the seminar to be held in Africa, the Committee will decide at a later date the venue and date and other arrangements for the holding of this seminar.

With regard to the North American seminar, the Committee has decided that, as in 1985, it should be combined with the North American symposium for NGOs and that it will take place in New York from 9 to 13 June 1986.

The Committee will decide at a later stage, on the basis of experience, and with a view to exercising financial restraint, whether to maintain its past practice with regard to the format of the seminars, their duration and the number of panelists.

The Committee agreed to the following dates and venues for the NGO symposia, the international meeting and the preparatory meetings in 1986:

North American preparatory meeting - New York, 24-25 February 1986
Preparatory meeting for international meeting - Geneva, 6-7 March 1986
Latin American symposium - (venue to be determined), May 1986
North American seminar/symposium - New York, 9-13 June 1986
European regional symposium - Geneva or Vienna, 23-25 June 1986
International NGO meeting - Geneva, 18-22 August 1986

The Committee decided that the major topics of interest had been covered in the studies prepared so far. In 1985 the following studies were published: Living Conditions of the Palestinian People and NGO Activities on the Question of Palestine. Two others, namely United Nations Assistance to the Palestinian People and Approaches for the Practical Attainment of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People were in the process of preparation.

The Committee decided to request the Secretariat to prepare a report, for the use of the Committee, on the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in 1983.

The Committee also decided that the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People should be observed on Monday, 1 December 1986, that two meetings should be held and programmes similar to those organized in the past be repeated in 1986.

The Committee also decided to invite the PLO to provide an exhibit to be displayed at United Nations Headquarters during the week of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

II. THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

On 21 January 1986 the Security Council began debate on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The urgent meeting of the Security Council was requested in separate letters by the representative of Morocco, in his capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference 2/ and the representative of the United Arab Emirates, as Chairman of the Arab Group 3/. Both requests referred to recent incidents at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People took part in the debate on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and made the following statement as Chairman of the Committee and representative of Senegal:

"In my dual capacity as representative of Senegal and Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to thank the Council for allowing me to participate once again in a debate on the situation in the occupied Arab territories. I wish to express my appreciation to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Group of Arab States for having taken the initiative in requesting the convening of this important series of meetings, in the light of the serious events that have taken place in Jerusalem in recent weeks.

"May I at the same time, Sir, congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of January. My delegation is convinced that under your leadership the Council will succeed in taking the necessary measures in this crucial situation.

"I wish also to pay a tribute to your predecessor, the Ambassador of Burkina Faso, for the exemplary way in which he guided the work of the Council in December.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate the new members of the Council, Bulgaria, the Congo, Ghana, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. I am certain they will contribute to the success of the Council's work.

"The word Jerusalem is in itself enough to arouse emotions in the hearts of many, be they Moslem, Christian or Jewish. For Moslems, it is a holy site of Islam. I believe it was yesterday that the representative of Saudi Arabia read out to the Council a passage from the Holy Koran concerning the nocturnal voyage of the Prophet Mohammed; I also know that in their prayers Moslems turn towards Jerusalem. For Christians, it is the cradle of Christianity and Jesus Christ. And for Jews it is the cradle of Abraham, Moses and Solomon.

" I say this to indicate that the situation in the Middle East is extremely complex. The Council has already discussed it at length in all its aspects. For a number of years we have been trying with patience, determination and resolve to find ways and means of arriving at a just and lasting peace in order to make it possible for the Palestinian people and all the States and peoples of the region to live in a spirit of understanding and comprehension.

"And now another element has been added, an extremely serious element - a denominational element - an element fraught with consequences and emotions, which the Council should not have had to consider.

"In any event the facts are before us and they must be discussed.

"We have followed with grave concern the recent events on the Temple Mount and the increased tension and violence that resulted. The facts are clear. According to information contained in the Israeli and international press, a delegation of Israeli parliamentarians composed of members of the Interior Committee of the Knesset and others visited the Temple Mount twice in less than a week and with their behaviour provoked serious incidents between the police and Palestinian Arab demonstrators. The visits had of course been organized with the consent of the Moslem authorities in Jerusalem; they were to be limited to members of the Committee of parliamentarians and the purpose was the inspection of construction works that were under way. It is therefore unforgivable that certain parliamentarians, accompanied by militants known for having called for complete Jewish control over the Moslem Holy Places and for having on many occasions tried to organize prayer groups, used the visits as a pretext to commit acts of provocation. In fact, according to the Jerusalem Post and Ha'aretz, during the first visit, which took place on 8 January, disturbances broke out when some of those extremists insisted on photographing the group, apparently to have proof of their presence there.

"It must be mentioned that these persons were led by the head of a movement that advocates the destruction of the Dome of the Rock and the reconstruction of the Jewish temple and that among the Knesset members there was also a deputy who has called for the expulsion of Arabs from Jerusalem and the West Bank and who was one of the leaders of the movement for Jewish settlement in the heart of the Arab city of Hebron.

"In response to that provocation, the Moslem religious authorities immediately appealed to the Palestinian Arabs residing in Jerusalem to gather together within the Mosque. The deputies then called the police, and as soon as they arrived on the scene they threw tear-gas grenades and fired warning shots, which in fact wounded five Palestinian Arabs.

"The events of the following days demonstrated that it was a premeditated operation, not an isolated incident. According to the newspaper Ha'aretz of 9 January, General Sharon entered the sanctuary escorted by a large police contingent and made a statement requesting the coexistence of Jews and Arabs in that place - something which, in any case, we already knew. Three Zionist militants then attempted to raise the Israeli flag in the sanctuary, but they were prevented from doing so by Moslem guards. At the same time certain members of the Government, such as the Minister of Health, raised the question of a revision of the agreements with the Moslem authorities concerning the Temple Mount in order to guarantee freer access to Jews.

"On 14 January, according to Le Monde, the second visit of the Knesset delegation took place on an esplanade of the Mosque in a state of seige at which more than 600 Israeli police and border guards were stationed. The troubles broke out when, upon the request of the Chairman of the Committee, a deputy belonging to the party of the extreme right, Tehiya, began reading the Kaddish, the prayer for the dead. Some 150 demonstrators then attempted to break the police barricade, and

according to the police a riot of disastrous proportions was avoided thanks only to the withdrawal of the Israeli deputies. The demonstrators were then dispersed with tear-gas, and 19 persons were arrested. Those are the facts.

"This behaviour of the Israeli parliamentarians was undoubtedly a profanation of one of the most sacred places of Islam and an affront to the feelings of the believers, thus arousing anger and indignation not only in the occupied Arab territories but also in the Moslem world at large. In the already highly charged atmosphere of the region, as I said at the outset, that religious provocation has compounded the political conflict, with unforeseeable and perhaps disastrous consequences for international peace and security.

"We cannot but conclude that, just like the growing colonization and other Israeli practices in the occupied territories, those actions were aimed at establishing permanent Israeli domination over all of Jerusalem and the occupied territories and creating a fait accompli by encouraging Arabs to emigrate permanently from their country.

"In this context it should be recalled that since 1967 the Israelis have committed many acts of aggression against the Moslem and Christian Holy Places. Clearly because of their fundamental importance and their religious symbolism for the Arab and Moslem world, Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock have been targets of a large number of these attacks. Suffice it to recall in this respect the excavation work conducted on the west and south sides of Al-Aqsa Mosque, extended by a tunnel penetrating under the mosque and thus weakening the entire structure. We also recall that criminal arson was committed in the Mosque in August 1969. In April 1982, there was an armed attack on the Mosque. In March 1983 and January 1984 attempts were even made to blow up the structure. It is clear that we must conclude that the events of last week fit within the framework of those reprehensible attacks.

"Members will recall also that at the time of the fire in 1969 the Council adopted resolution 271 (1969) in which it recognized that any act of destruction or profanation of the Holy Places, religious buildings and sites in Jerusalem or any encouragement of, or connivance at, any such act might seriously endanger international peace and security, and the Council noted that the execrable act of desecration and profanation of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque emphasized the immediate necessity of Israel's desisting from acting in violation of resolutions 252 (1968) and 267 (1969) and rescinding forthwith all measures and actions taken by it designed to alter the status of Jerusalem.

"The resolution also called upon Israel scrupulously to observe the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and international law governing military occupation and to refrain from causing any hindrance to the discharge of the established functions of the Supreme Moslem Council of Jerusalem. Lastly, the Council condemned the failure of Israel to comply with resolutions 252 (1968) and 267 (1969) concerning the status of Jerusalem and called upon it to implement forthwith the provisions of those resolutions.

"I need not remind this Council of the great number of resolutions it has adopted in this respect and in which it has always reaffirmed the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by military conquest; it has confirmed in the most explicit terms that all legislative and administrative measures taken by Israel to change the status of Jerusalem, in particular the "fundamental law", are in violation of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949; as such, they are completely null and void and must therefore be rescinded immediately.

"In the light of these resolutions which commanded a consensus in this Council, my country, Senegal, and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People deplore the statement made by the Prime Minister of Israel

following the recent events that "Israel's sovereignty over all Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount, is an unassailable fact which need not be further put to the test". That quote was taken from Le Monde of 16 January 1986.

"In my delegation's view, the status of Jerusalem is one of the fundamental issues in the Middle East dispute, and the settlement of that question should be envisaged within the framework of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East in which implementation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as defined by the General Assembly would have a central place.

"In this respect the Committee has unceasingly stressed that tension and violence will continue to grow in the occupied territories as long as the question of Palestine remains unresolved; it has unceasingly addressed urgent appeals to the Security Council to follow up on the recommendations of the Committee and of the General Assembly for a just and lasting settlement of this question.

"It is therefore more urgent than ever to initiate the negotiation process, under the auspices of the United Nations. In this respect it is fitting to pay tribute to the Secretary-General for all his efforts to that end. Pursuant to guidelines established by the General Assembly, negotiations should begin in a spirit of understanding and co-operation and with respect for the fundamental interests of all parties concerned." 4/

On 30 January 1986, the Security Council voted on a draft resolution submitted by the Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Arab Emirates 5/. The draft resolution received 13 votes in favour to 1 against (United States of America), with 1 abstention (Thailand). It was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Security Council.

The full text of the draft resolution read as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Taking note of the letter (S/17740) from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the letter (S/17741) from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, current Chairman of the Arab Group, both addressed on 16 January 1986 to the President of the Security Council,

"Reaffirming that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

"Bearing in mind the specific status of Jerusalem and, in particular, the need to protect and preserve the unique spiritual and religious dimensions of the Holy Places in the City,

"Recalling and reaffirming its resolutions relevant to the status and character of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular resolutions 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 267 (1969) of 3 July and 271 (1969) of 15 September 1969, 298 (1971) of 25 September 1971, the consensus statement made by the President of the Security Council on 11 November 1976, resolutions 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980 and 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980,

"Strongly deploring the continued refusal of Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

"Deeply concerned at the provocative acts by Israelis, including members of the Knesset, which have violated the sanctity of the sanctuary of the Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem,

"1. Strongly deplores the provocative acts which have violated the sanctity of the sanctuary of the Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem;

"2. Affirms that such acts constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, the failure of which could also endanger international peace and security;

"3. Determines once more that all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, or any part thereof, have no legal validity and that the policy and practices of Israel of settling parts of its population and new immigrants in those territories constitute a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and also constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

"4. Reiterates that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem and in particular the "basic law" on Jerusalem are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith;

"5. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to observe scrupulously the norms of international law governing military occupation, in particular the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to prevent any hindrance to the discharge of the established functions of the Supreme Islamic Council in Jerusalem, including any co-operation that the Council may desire from countries with predominantly Muslim

populations and from Muslim communities in relation to its plans for the maintenance and repair of the Islamic Holy Places;

"6. Urgently calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to implement forthwith the provisions of this resolution and the relevant Security Council resolutions;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the implementation of the present resolution before 1 May 1986."

III. FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE TENTH SESSION
OF THE AL-QUDS COMMITTEE, HELD AT
MARRAKESH, MOROCCO ON 21 AND 22 JANUARY 1986 6/

"The tenth session of the Al-Quds Committee was held at Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, on 10 and 11 Jumada I, 1406 (21 and 22 January 1986), at the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, Chairman of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference and Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, and pursuant to a request made by Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

"The Al-Quds Committee was invited to consider the dangers facing the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque since a number of members of the Israeli Knesset, under the protection of the Israeli police, intruded into the Mosque in order to mark out areas of worship reserved for Jews.

"Participants in the session included the Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Mr. Yasser Arafat, as well as delegations of States members of the Al-Quds Committee. The Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran were absent.

"The Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference also participated in the session.

"In the opening statement, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, reviewed the situation concerning the City of Al-Quds al-Sharif and the Palestinian cause, highlighting the dangers confronting the Holy Al-Quds Mosque, which was the target of repeated acts of aggression, like other Islamic and Christian Holy Places in the Holy City. His Majesty reaffirmed the need for the Islamic countries to intensify their efforts to ensure that the Holy City and its inhabitants had the practical means of strengthening their resistance and preserving their land and the Holy Places.

"His Majesty issued an appeal to the Syrian Arab Republic, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO to close ranks, since the fate of Al-Quds should transcend all political and personal considerations.

"His Majesty informed the Committee of his decision to have the Holy Al-Quds Mosque guarded by Moroccans. He also proposed that the kings, heads of State and emirs of the Islamic countries should sign a public communiqué to be addressed to His Holiness the Pope, the permanent members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, requesting them to circulate the communiqué among Member States and the international authorities, so that they would assume their responsibilities with a view to preventing a religious war of unpredictable scope and consequences.

"Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, then took the floor and thanked His Majesty King Hassan II for the welcome initiative of convening the session of the Al-Quds Committee and for his prompt response to the recent developments. Chairman Arafat warned the Committee about the ambitions of the Zionist entity, whose repeated acts of aggression were aimed at destroying the Al-Aqsa Mosque and building the temple of Solomon upon its ruins, as part of a premeditated plan to conceal the Arab and Islamic identity of the Holy City and destroy the Christian and Islamic Holy Places. The Chairman of the PLO expressed confidence that the Committee would adopt measures commensurate with the developments and the challenges that were virtually humiliating the Arab and Muslim world and even the Christian world.

"The Committee heard a statement by His Excellency Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, who referred to the importance of the session in the light of the present situation, and launched an appeal for increased support from the Islamic world for the resistance of the Palestinian people, who were struggling in the occupied territories to preserve the Arab and Islamic character of the Holy City. The Secretary-General of the Organization also urged the Committee to request the Security Council to discharge its responsibilities fully, adopt measures that would deter the Zionist enemy from resorting to such practices, and call upon it to abide by international resolutions on the subject.

"The heads of delegation who took the floor thanked His Majesty King Hassan II for his initiative in convening the Committee and stated their positions regarding the dangerous development of the situation and the challenge to the cause of Al-Quds al-Sharif. They reaffirmed the need to provide any assistance likely to strengthen the resistance of the inhabitants of the Holy City and of the occupied territories, so as to help them remain on their land and in the Holy Places and to block Zionist machinations and pressure aimed at chasing them away. The heads of delegation also appealed to the Committee to adopt practical resolutions and establish a body to follow up their implementation.

"The Committee endorsed the proposal made by His Majesty King Hassan II that the next session should be held in April 1986 with a view to considering progress made in the implementation of the resolutions.

"The Committee considered it indispensable to continue implementing the resolutions relating to the City of Al-Quds adopted at previous Islamic conferences, particularly the resolution adopted at the Third Islamic Summit Conference (session on Palestine and Al-Quds) concerning all forms of jihad.

"The Committee focused on the two working papers submitted by the delegations of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and of Palestine. After the ensuing exchange of views, a small drafting committee was formed to prepare the text of the Committee's recommendations.

"The Committee recommended:

"That the principle of Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian people should be strengthened by, on the one hand, putting an end to differences and conflicts between Islamic States and, on the other hand, devoting all efforts and Islamic potential to the liberation of the first of the kiblans and the third holy sanctuary;

"That the sermon at the prayer service on Friday, 20 Jumada I, 1406 H (31 January 1986) should be devoted to the denunciation in all mosques of the Zionist plans and practices aimed at destroying the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, Judaizing the Holy City and changing its Arab and Muslim character;

"That on Monday, 23 Jumada I, 1406 H (3 February 1986) work should stop for a specific length of time throughout the Muslim world as a protest against Zionist violations of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Holy Mosque of Abraham at Hebron (Al-Haram al-Ibrahimi), and as an expression of solidarity on the part of the Islamic Ummah with the Palestinian population of occupied Palestine in their valiant resistance effort to safeguard their homeland and their Holy Places;

"That, pursuant to the Committee's proposal as approved by His Majesty King Hassan II, contact should be established with the Holy See, the Orthodox Church and the other authorities of the Christian religions, with a view to adopting a clear and effective proposal in response to the Zionist violations in the City of Al-Quds al-Sharif and in occupied Palestine;

"That His Majesty King Hassan II, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, should be entrusted with the task of sending a letter to the heads of State of the permanent members of the Security Council, to the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, to the Chairman of OAU and to the current Chairman of the European Economic Community, reporting Israel's continuing criminal and Zionist acts of aggression in the Holy City of Al-Quds al-Sharif, at Hebron and in the occupied towns and regions of Palestine, stressing the growing seriousness of the situation, which poses a dangerous threat to international peace and security, and requesting those countries to put pressure on the Israeli authorities to end such acts of aggression and abide by the relevant international resolutions;

"That the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should be instructed to contact the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of OAU and the Director-General of UNESCO and request them to make every effort to bring to an end Israeli practices and violations of the Holy Places in occupied Palestine, particularly in Al-Quds al-Sharif;

"That, on the suggestion of His Majesty King Hassan II, Chairman of the Islamic Conference and Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, an appeal signed by the heads of State of the Islamic countries should be addressed to the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, His Holiness the Pope and the international authorities. The appeal would contain a warning about the inherent risk posed by the continuing Zionist violations of the Islamic and Christian Holy Places in Palestine, particularly in the Holy City of Al-Quds and at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and

the risk created by the failure to recognize the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people - a serious challenge to the Faithful throughout the world. It would point out that such policies of aggression provoke hatred and conflict between the followers of the divine religions, which could pose a threat to international peace and security;

"That effective support should continue to be given to the struggle of the Palestinian people at all levels, political, military and economic, and at the level of information, in order to enable it to resist on its land and in its homeland with greater firmness and to oppose more effectively the Zionist occupation and the racist, oppressive and colonialist practices in occupied Palestine, in particular in the Holy City of Al-Quds al-Sharif;

"That the Islamic States should be asked to accelerate the reconstitution of the capital of the Al-Quds Fund and its Waqf, in implementation of the pertinent resolutions, in order to permit payment of the scheduled amount of aid to support the resistance and struggle of the Palestinian people;

"That an appeal should be launched for voluntary contributions among the Muslim population in order to strengthen the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and that the municipal administrations of Islamic capitals should be urged to give financial support to the city of Al-Quds al-Sharif, the capital of Palestine;

"That support should be given to the joint efforts of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Jordanian Government to safeguard the Holy Places of Islam in occupied Palestine, particularly in Al-Quds al-Sharif, in order to permit the reconstruction, maintenance and protection of the Holy Mosque. Tribute was paid, in that regard, to the efforts made by the Minister for Awqaf and Religious Affairs and for the Islamic Holy Places;

"That the implementation of the Islamic boycott of the Israeli enemy should be ensured in all the Islamic countries;

"That a certain number of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries members of the Al-Quds al-Sharif Committee and the Secretary-General of the Committee should be enabled to participate in the deliberations of the Security Council concerning Israeli violations of the holy sanctuary of Al-Quds and Al-Haram al-Ibrahimi, in Hebron, in order to express the unified Islamic position on that situation;

"That a sub-committee of the Al-Quds Committee should be established with the mandate of visiting all the Islamic countries in order to draw up programmes of action for the implementation of all the Islamic resolutions concerning the cause of Al-Quds and Palestine. The sub-committee would be answerable to the Al-Quds Committee;

"That the General Secretariat should be asked to inform member countries of the resolutions adopted by the Committee, in particular operative paragraphs 2, 3, 10 and 11, and to submit a report to the Committee at its next session.

"In concluding its work, the Committee expressed its deep gratitude and sincere thanks to its Chairman, His Majesty King Hassan II, who is making sustained efforts in the Arab, Islamic and international arenas in defence of the rights of the Palestinian people and working for the restoration of Al-Quds al-Sharif to Arab and Islamic sovereignty.

"The members of the Committee also expressed their thanks and gratitude to the Moroccan people for the warm welcome accorded them and the generous hospitality extended to them."

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITY AND INFORMATION

1. In response to the recent attacks on the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, one resulting in the death of their California Regional Director, Alex Odeh, over 200 non-governmental organizations and individuals published a statement in The New York Times of 5 January 1986.

A broad spectrum of Jewish, Arab, Christian, human rights, peace and women's groups are represented among the signatories.

The statement deplores terrorism and expresses the hope that Americans of Jewish or Arabic origin can set an example of fraternity that may help to heal the tension between their kindred in the Middle East.

2. Middle East Public Relations has announced completion of the book entitled "Contributions by Palestinian Women to the National Struggle for Liberation". In addition to historical and cultural documentation, the book includes material on various aspects of social, political and military levels of the Palestinian woman.

Emphasis is given to the General Union of Palestinian Women and the role of women under Israeli occupation.

3. "The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs", published by the American Educational Trust, includes a film and book catalogue section which features material dealing with the question of Palestine.

4. The Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Its newsletter The Other Israel is published on a regular basis.

5. The second bureau meeting of the presidium of the Afro-Arab Peoples Solidarity Organization was held in Athens, Greece, 4 and 5 December 1985.

In its final communiqué, the Bureau "extended its support to the holding of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, under the auspices of the UN, in which would participate all the concerned parties, including the

PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, with the presence of the Soviet Union and the USA, to achieve a just peace that would guarantee the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories and would grant the national inalienable rights to the Arab Palestinian, including their right to return to their homeland and to self-determination as well as to set up their independent national State."

6. The Euro-Arab Parliamentary Dialogue took place in Rabat on 29 and 30 November 1985 with the participation of 13 Arab parliaments which are members of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union and of 14 national sections and the European Parliament section of the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation.

Their final communiqué called for putting into effect the United Nations and Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian question and for the calling of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the Soviet Union, the USA and all concerned parties, including the PLO.

Notes

- 1/ SG/SM/3818.
- 2/ S/17740.
- 3/ S/17741.
- 4/ S/PV.2645.
- 5/ S/17769/Rev. 1.
- 6/ A/41/113-S/17760, annex.
