



## DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. UNITED NATIONS SPONSORS FACT-FINDING NEWS MISSION FOR  
JOURNALISTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/96 C of 12 December 1985 on the question of Palestine, the Department of Public Information, in full co-operation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, organized a news mission for journalists to the Middle East from 27 April to 15 May 1986.

The following journalists participated in the news mission:

- (a) Ms. Jeune Pritchard, ABC Radio Women's Unit - Australia;
- (b) Mr. Norman Webster, The Globe and Mail - Canada;
- (c) Mr. Alain Chemali, Le Matin - France;
- (d) Mr. Lothar Pilz, Neues Deutschland - German Democratic Republic;
- (e) Mr. Nobuyuki Sato, Kyodo News Service - Japan;
- (f) Mr. Liad Tella, Concord Newspapers - Nigeria;
- (g) Mr. Ralph Naxwell Limanowski, The Chicago Sun Times - United States of America

The mission visited Egypt from 27 April to 6 May, Jordan from 6 to 11 May and the Syrian Arab Republic from 11 to 15 May 1986. A formal request was sent to the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations to visit Israel and the West Bank. No response was received from Israel. In Egypt and Jordan, the mission met with senior government officials. In Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, the mission also met with officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and visited Palestinian refugee camps. The main purpose of the visits was to provide a first-hand opportunity for the news mission to learn in-depth about the various aspects of the question of Palestine.

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II. SEVENTY-FIFTH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION, HELD AT MEXICO CITY FROM 7 TO 12 APRIL 1986, ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

"The 75th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

"Recalling all the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council and by the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

"Recalling also the statements and efforts of the United Nations Security Council and Secretary-General,

"Convinced that a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of conflicts can only be achieved by collective efforts, with the participation of all those concerned,

"Further convinced that the continued occupation of Arab territories by Israel and the denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their rights to return to their homeland and to self-determination, constitute the most serious problems in the Middle East yet to be resolved,

"Recognizing the rights of all States in the region to existence and security, as well as the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and to self-determination,

"...

"1. Calls again for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

"2. Considers that this aim should be pursued through the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council relating to the Palestinian question and the Middle East conflict;

"3. Demands the full, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territory, affirms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent State under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), denounces the oppressive measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people, and condemns the policy of annexation and settlement in occupied Arab territory, as well as attempts to change the population structure and democratic and cultural features;

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"4. Condemns Israel's violation, by its air raid, of Tunisian sovereignty, which caused the death of innocent people, and calls for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 573 (1985) in this regard;

"5. Strongly condemns any actions which pose a threat to civil aviation security and endanger passenger safety;

"6. Calls on Parliaments and Governments to support all efforts towards the early convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, with the participation of all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council;

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### III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

1. The Palestine Aid Society devoted a portion of the May 1986 issue of its newsletter to an explanation of the commemoration of Land Day, 30 March, and the Day of Solidarity with Palestinian Prisoners, 17 April. Both days were commemorated by a large number of NGOs throughout the world who were anxious to draw attention to these two aspects of the question of Palestine.
2. A Middle East Festival, sponsored by the Symphony for the United Nations and the New York Society for Ethical Culture in New York City, 9-12 May, featured cultural expressions from the region, including Palestinian art forms. The film component of the programme stressed efforts at creating understanding amongst the various religious and ethnic groups caught in the Arab-Israeli conflict.
3. The Institute for Palestine Studies has announced the release of Occupiers Law: Israel and the West Bank by Raja Shehadeh. This publication was prepared for Law in the Service of Man, the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists.
4. The Palestinian Women's Association in the United States held its national founding convention in April in Chicago, Illinois. Panel discussions were held on "The Conditions of Palestinian and Arab Women" and "Palestinian Women and Political Activism".
5. Americans for Justice in the Middle East, Beirut, has sent us copies of their monthly newsletter featuring articles devoted to aspects of the question of Palestine.
6. Eastern College, The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has published the report of its 1985 Evangelical Round Table entitled "Christianity and the Arab-Israeli Conflict".
7. Orientalia, a Brussels-based NGO with the goal of forming public opinion on the complex question of the Near and Middle East, has issued Dossier Palestine dealing with various aspects of the background of the current situation of the Palestinian people.
8. The World Council of Churches has recently published Enduring Witness: The Churches and the Palestinians, volume II, by Larry Ekin.

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